

Jusan

C. Smith

THE
WORKS
OF
Alexander Pope Esq.
VOLUME VIII.

BEING THE
SECOND of his LETTERS.

DUBLIN:

Printed for G. FAULKNER in Parliament-street, and
H. BRADLEY in Dame-street.

M DCC LXIX.

W O R K S

O F

Alexander Pope



PRINTED BY

JOHN JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD

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LETTERS

TO AND FROM .

EDWARD BLOUNT, ESQ.

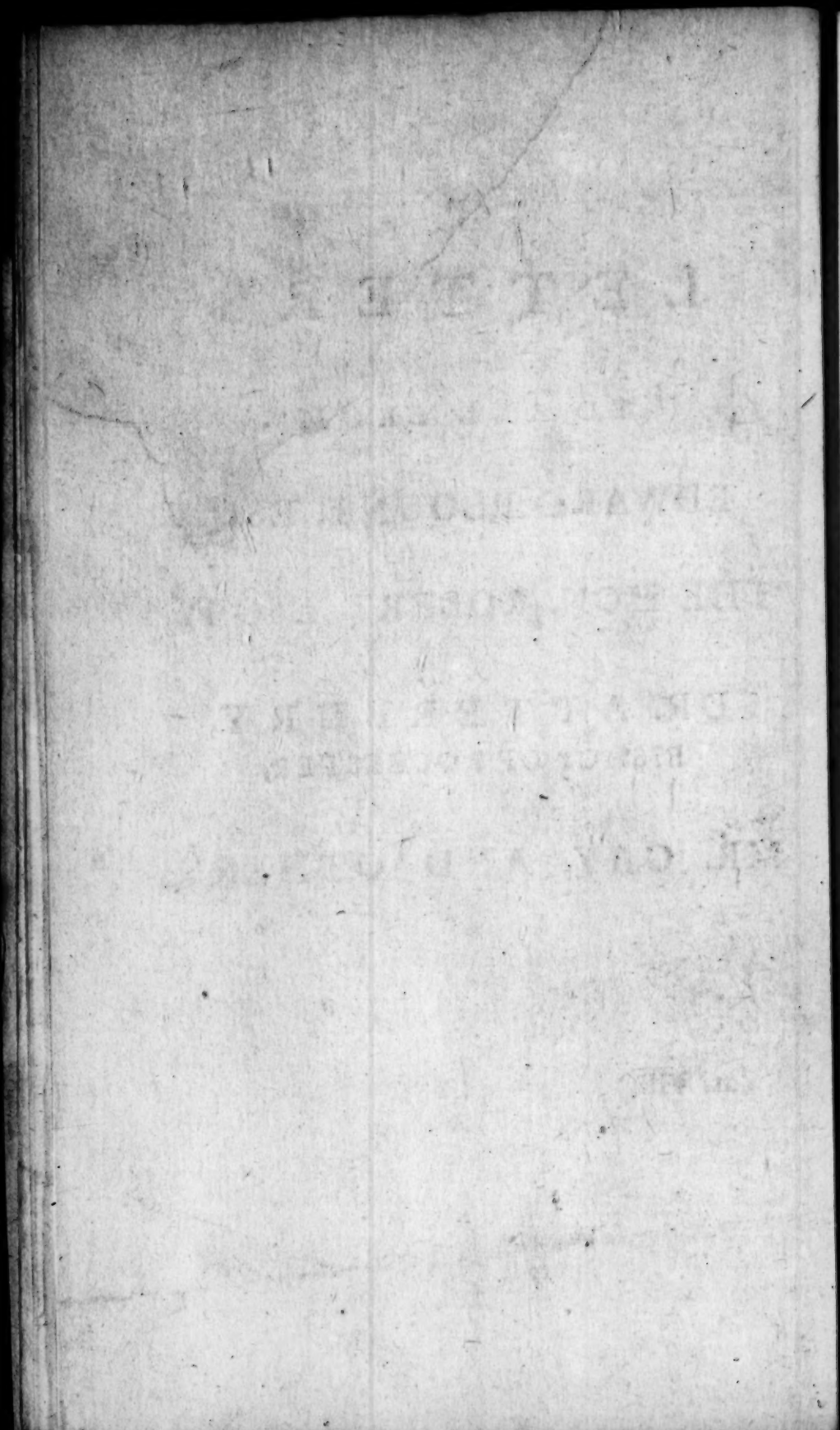
THE HON. ROBERT DIGBY,

DR. ATTERBURY,
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER,

MR. GAY, AND OTHERS.

VOL. VIII.

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LETTERS
TO AND FROM
EDWARD BLOUNT, Esq.
From 1714 to 1725.

LETTER I.

MR. POPE TO EDWARD BLOUNT, ESQ.

August 27, 1714:

WHATEVER Studies on the one Hand, or Amusements on the other, it shall be my Fortune to fall into, I shall be equally incapable of forgetting you in any of them. The Task I undertook ^a, though of Weight enough in itself, has had a voluntary Increase by the enlarging my Design of the *Notes* ^b; and the Necessity of consulting a Number of Books has carry'd me to Oxford: But I fear, through my Lord Harcourt's and Dr. Clarke's Means, I shall be more conversant with the Pleasures and Company of the Place, than with the Books and Manuscripts of it.

B 2

I find

^a *The Translation of Homer's Iliad.*

P:

^b *The Notes on the Iliad were his own: Those on the Odyssey were Dr. Broome's.—But they speak their respective Authors.*

I find still more Reason to complain of the Negligence of the Geographers in their Maps of old Greece, since I look'd upon two or three more noted Names in the public Libraries here. But with all the Care I am capable of, I have some Cause to fear the Engraver will prejudice me in a few Situations. I have been forced to write to him in so high a Style, that, were my Epistles intercepted, it would raise no small Admiration in an ordinary Man. There is scarce an Order in it of less Importance, than to remove such and such Mountains, alter the Course of such and such Rivers, place a large City on such a Coast, and raze another in another Country. I have set Bounds to the Sea, and said to the Land, Thus far thou shalt advance, and no farther ^a. In the mean Time, I, who talk and command at this Rate, am in Danger of losing my Horse, and stand in some Fear of a Country Justice ^b. To disarm me indeed may be but prudential, considering what Armies I have at present on Foot, and in my Service; a hundred thousand Grecians are no contemptible Body; for all that I can tell, they may be as formidable as four thousand Priests; and they seem proper Forces to send against those in Barcelona. That Siege deserves as fine a Poem as the *Iliad*, and the machining Part of Poetry would be the juster in it, as, they say, the Inhabitants expect Angels from Heaven to their Assistance. May I venture to say who am a Papist, and say to you who are a Papist, that nothing is more astonishing to me, than that People so greatly warmed with a Sense of Liberty, should be capable of harbouring such weak Superstition, and that so much Bravery and so much Folly can inhabit the same Breasts?

I could

^a This relates to the Map of antient Greece, laid down by our Author in his Observations on the second *Iliad*. P.

^b Some of the Laws were, at this Time, put in Force against the Papists.

from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ.

3

I could not but take a Trip to *London* on the Death of the Queen, mov'd by the common Curiosity of Mankind, who leave their own Business to be looking upon other Mens. I thank God, that, as for myself, I am below all the Accidents of State-Changes by my Circumstances, and above them by my Philosophy. Common Charity of Man to Man, and universal Good-will to all, are the Points I have most at Heart; and, I am sure, those are not to be broken for the Sake of any Governors, or Government. I am willing to hope the best, and what I more wish than my own or any particular Man's Advancement, is, that this Turn may put an End entirely to the Divisions of *Whig* and *Tory*; that the Parties may love each other as well as I love them both, or at least hurt each other as little as I would either: and that our own People may live as quietly as we shall certainly let theirs: that is to say, that Want of Power itself in us may not be a surer Prevention of Harm, than Want of Will in them. I am sure, if all *Whigs* and all *Tories* had the Spirit of one Roman Catholic that I know, it would be well for all Roman Catholics; and if all Roman Catholics had always had that Spirit, it had been well for all others; and we had never been charged with so wicked a Spirit as that of Persecution.

I agree with you in my Sentiments of the State of our Nation since this Change; I find myself just in the same Situation of Mind you describe as your own, heartily wishing the Good, that is, the Quiet of my Country, and hoping a total End of all the unhappy Divisions of Mankind by Party-spirit, which at best is but the Madness of many for the Gain of a few.

I am, &c.

LETTER II.

FROM MR. BLOUNT.

IT is with a great deal of Pleasure I see your Letter, dear Sir, written in a Style that shews you full of Health, and in the midst of Diversions: I think those two Things necessary to a Man who has such Undertakings in Hand as yours. All Lovers of *Homer* are indebted to you for taking so much Pains about the Situation of his Heroes' Kingdoms; it will not only be of great Use with Regard to his Works, but to all that read any of the *Greek* Historians; who generally are ill understood through the Difference of the Maps as to the Places they treat of, which makes one think one Author contradicts another. You are going to set us right; and 'tis an Advantage every Body will gladly see you engross the Glory of.

You can draw Rules to be free and easy, from formal Pedants; and teach Men to be short and pertinent, from tedious Commentators. However, I congratulate your happy Deliverance from such Authors, as you (with all your Humanity) cannot wish alive again to converse with. Critics will quarrel with you, if you dare to please without their Leave; and Zealots will shrug up their Shoulders at a Man, that pretends to get to Heaven out of their Form, Dress and Diet. I would no more make a Judgment of an Author's Genius from a damning Critic, than I would of a Man's Religion from an unsaving Zealot.

I could take great Delight in affording you the new Glory of making a *Barceloniad* (if I may venture to coin such a Word): I fancy you would find a juster Parallel than it seems at first Sight; for the *Trojans* too had a great Mixture of Folly with their Bravery; and I am out of Countenance for them when I read the wise Result of their Council, where,
after

from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ.

after a warm Debate between *Antenor* and *Paris* about restoring *Helen*, *Priam* sagely determines that they shall go to Supper. And as for the *Greeks*, what can equal their Superstition in sacrificing an innocent Lady.

Tantum Relligio potuit, &c.

I have a good Opinion of my Politics, since they agree with a Man who always thinks so justly as you. I wish it were in our Power to persuade all the Nation into as calm and steady a Disposition of Mind.

We have received the late melancholy News with the usual Ceremony, of condoling in one Breath for the Loss of a gracious Queen, and in another rejoicing for an illustrious King. My Views carry me no further, than to wish the Peace and Welfare of my Country; and my Morals and Politics teach me to leave all that to be adjusted by our Representatives above, and by divine Providence. It is much at one to you and me, who sit at the Helm, provided they will permit us to sail quietly in the great Ship. Ambition is a Vice that is timely mortify'd in us poor Papists; we ought in Recompence to cultivate as many Virtues in ourselves as we can, that we may be truly great. Among my Ambitions, that of being a sincere Friend is one of the chief: yet I will confess, that I have a secret Pleasure to have some of my Descendants know, that their Ancestor was great with Mr. Pope.

I am, &c.

LETTER III.

FROM MR. BLOUNT.

Nov. 11, 1715.

IT is an Agreement of long Date between you and me, that you should do with my Letters just as you pleased, and answer them at your Leisure; and that is as soon as I shall think you ought. I have so true a Taste of the substantial Part of your Friendship, that I wave all Ceremonials; and I am sure to make you as many Visits as I can, and leave you to return them whenever you please, assuring you that they shall at all Times be heartily welcome to me.

The many Alarms we have from your Parts, have no Effect upon the Genius that reigns in our Country, which is happily turn'd to preserve Peace and Quiet among us. What a dismal Scene has there been opened in the *North*! what Ruin have those unfortunate rash Gentlemen drawn upon themselves and their miserable Followers, and perchance upon many others too, who upon no Account would be their Followers? However, it may look ungenerous to reproach People in Distress. I don't remember you and I ever used to trouble ourselves about Politics, but when any Matter happened to fall into our Discourse, we us'd to condemn all Undertakings that tended towards the disturbing the Peace and Quiet of our Country, as contrary to the Notion we had of Morality and Religion, which oblige us on no Pretence whatsoever to violate the Laws of Charity. How many Lives have there been lost in hot Blood, and how many more are there like to be taken off in cold? If the Broils of the Nation affect you, come down to me, and though we are Farmers, you know *Eumeus* made his Friends welcome. You shall here worship the Echo at your Ease; indeed we are forced to do so, because we can't hear the first Report,
and

from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ.

9

and therefore are obliged to listen to the second ; which, for Security Sake, I do not always believe neither.

'Tis a great many Years since I fell in Love with the Character of *Pomponius Atticus*: I long'd to imitate him a little, and have contriv'd hitherto to be, like him, engag'd in no Party, but to be a faithful Friend to some in both : I find myself very well in this Way hitherto, and live in a certain Peace of Mind by it, which, I am perswaded, brings a Man more Content than in all the Perquisites of wild Ambition. I with Pleasure join with you in wishing, nay I am not ashamed to say, in praying for the Welfare Temporal and Eternal of all Mankind. How much more affectionately then shall I do so for you, since I am in a most particular Manner, and with all Sincerity,

Your, &c.

B^s

LET

LETTER IV.

Jan. 21, 1715-16.

I KNOW of nothing that will be so interesting to you at present, as some Circumstances of the last Act of that eminent comic Poet, and our Friend, *Wycherly*. He had often told me, as I doubt not he did all his Acquaintance, that he would marry as soon as his Life was despaired of: Accordingly, a few Days before his Death he underwent the Ceremony; and join'd together those two Sacraments, which, wise Men say, should be the last we receive; for, if you observe, Matrimony is placed after Extreme-Unction in our Catechism, as a Kind of Hint of the Order of Time in which they are to be taken. The old Man then lay down, satisfy'd in the Conscience of having by this one Act paid his just Debts, obliged a Woman, who (he was told) had Merit, and shewn an heroic Resentment of the ill Usage of his next Heir. Some hundred Pounds which he had with the Lady, discharged those Debts; a Jointure of four hundred a Year made her a Recompence; and the Nephew he left to comfort himself as well as he could, with the miserable Remains of a mortgaged Estate. I saw our Friend twice after this was done, less peevish in his Sickness than he used to be in his Health; neither much afraid of dying, nor (which in him had been more likely) much ashamed of marrying. The Evening before he expired, he called his young Wife to the Bedside, and earnestly entreated her not to deny him one Request, the last he should make. Upon her Assurances of consenting to it, he told her, "My Dear, it is only this, that you will never marry an old Man again." I cannot help remarking, that Sickness, which often destroys both Wit and Wisdom, yet seldom has Power to remove that Talent which we call Humour. Mr. *Wycherly* shew'd his, even in this last Compliment; tho' I think his Request a little hard,

hard, for why should he bar her from doubling her Jointure on the same easy Terms?

So trivial as these Circumstances are, I should not be displeas'd myself to know such Trifles, when they concern or characterize any eminent Person. The wisest or wittiest of Men are seldom wiser or wittier than others in these sober Moments: At least, our Friend ended much in the Character he had lived in: and *Horace's* Rule for a Play, may as well be apply'd to him as a Play-Wright.

Servetur ad imum

Qualis ab inceptu processerit, et sibi constet.

I am, &c.

LET-

Feb. 10, 1715-16.

I AM just returned from the Country, whither Mr. *Rorwe* accompanied me, and pass'd a Week in the Forest. I need not tell you how much a Man of his Turn entertain'd me; but I must acquaint you there is a Vivacity and Gaiety of Disposition almost peculiar to him, which make it impossible to part from him without that Uneasiness which generally succeeds all our Pleasures. I have been just taking a solitary Walk by Moon-shine, full of Reflections on the transitory Nature of all human Delights; and giving my Thoughts a Loose in the Contemplation of those Satisfactions which probably we may hereafter taste in the Company of separate Spirits, when we shall range the Walks above, and perhaps gaze on this World at as vast a Distance as we now do on those Worlds. The Pleasures we are to enjoy in that Conversation must undoubtedly be of a noble Kind, and (not unlikely) may proceed from the Discoveries each shall communicate to another, of God and of Nature; for the Happiness of Minds can surely be nothing but Knowledge.

The highest Gratification we receive here from Company is Mirth, which at the best is but a fluttering unquiet Motion, that beats about the Breast for a few Moments, and after leaves it void and empty. Keeping good Company, even the best, is but a less shameful Art of losing Time. What we here call Science and Study, are little better: the greater Number of Arts to which we apply ourselves are mere groping in the Dark; and even the Search of our most important Concerns in a future Being, is but a needless, anxious, and uncertain Haste to be knowing, sooner than we can, what without all this Solicitude we shall know a little later. We are but curious Impertinents in the Case of Futurity.

'Tis
not

not our Business to be guessing what the State of Souls shall be, but to be doing what may make our own State happy; we cannot be knowing, but we can be virtuous.

If this be my Notion of a great Part of that high Science, Divinity, you will be so civil as to imagine I lay no mighty Stress upon the rest. Even of my darling Poetry I really make no other Use, than Horses of the Bells that gingle about their Ears (tho' now and then they toss their Heads as if they were proud of them) only to jog on, a' little more merrily.

Your Observations on the narrow Conception of Mankind in the Point of Friendship, confirm me in what I was so fortunate as at my first Knowledge of you to hope, and since so amply to experience. Let me take so much decent Pride and Dignity upon me, as to tell you, that but for Opinions like these which I discovered in your Mind, I had never made the Trial I have done; which has succeeded so much to mine, and, I believe, not less to your Satisfaction; for, if I know you right, your Pleasure is greater in obliging me, than I can feel on my Part, till it falls in my Power to oblige you.

Your Remark, that the Variety of Opinions in Politics or Religion is often rather a Gratification, than an Objection, to People who have Sense enough to consider the beautiful Order of Nature in her Variations, makes me think you have not construed *Joannes Secundus* wrong, in the Verse which precedes that which you quote: *Bene nota Fides*, as I take it, does no Way signify the Roman Catholic Religion, tho' *Secundus* was of it. I think it was a generous Thought, and one that flow'd from an exalted Mind, That it was not improbable but God might be delighted with the various Methods of worshipping him, which divided the whole World ^a. I am pretty sure you and I should

^a *This was an Opinion taken up by the old Philosophers, as the last Support of Paganism against Christianity:*

I should no more make good Inquisitors to the modern Tyrants in Faith, than we could have been qualified for Lictors to *Procrustes*, when he converted refractory Members with the Rack. In a Word, I can only repeat to you what, I think, I have formerly said; that I as little fear God will damn a Man who has Charity, as I hope that any Priest can save him without it,

I am, &c.

nity: And the Missionaries, to both the Indies, tell us, it is the first Answer modern Barbarians give to the Offer made them of the Gospel. But Christians might see that the Notion is not only improbable, but impossible to be true, if the Redemption of Mankind was purchased by the Death of Jesus, which is the Gospel-Idea of his Religion. Nor is there any Need of this Opinion to discredit Persecution. For the Iniquity of that Practice does not arise from restraining what God permits or delights in, but from usurping a Jurisdiction over Conscience, which belongs only to his Tribunal.

LET-

LETTER VI.

March 20, 1715-6.

I FIND that a real Concern is not only an Hindrance to Speaking, but to Writing too: the more Time we give ourselves to think over one's own or a Friend's Unhappiness, the more unable we grow to express the Grief that proceeds from it. It is as natural to delay a Letter, at such a Season as this, as to retard a melancholy Visit to a Person one cannot relieve. One is ashamed in that Circumstance, to pretend to entertain People with trifling, insignificant Affections of Sorrow on the one Hand, or unseasonable or forced Gaieties on the other. 'Tis a Kind of Profanation of Things sacred, to treat so solemn a Matter as a generous voluntary Suffering, with Compliments, or heroic Gallantries. Such a Mind as your's has no Need of being spirited up into Honour, or like a weak Woman, prais'd into an Opinion of its own Virtue. 'Tis enough to do and suffer what we ought; and Men should know, that the noble Power of suffering bravely is as far above that of enterprizing greatly, as an unblemish'd Conscience and inflexible Resolution are above an accidental Flow of Spirits, or a sudden Tide of Blood. If the whole religious Business of Mankind be included in Resignation to our Maker, and Charity to our Fellow-Creatures, there are now some People who give us as good an Opportunity of practising the one, as themselves have given an Instance of the Violation of the other. Whoever is really brave, has always this Comfort when he is oppress'd, that he knows himself to be superior to those who injure him: for the greatest Power on Earth can no sooner do him that Injury, but the brave Man can make himself greater by forgiving it.

If it were generous to seek for alleviating Consolations in a Calamity of so much Glory, one might say,
that

that to be ruined thus in the Gross with a whole People, is but perishing in the general Conflagration, where nothing we can value is left behind us.

Methinks, the most heroic Thing we are left capable of doing, is to endeavour to lighten each other's Load, and (oppress'd as we are) to succour such as are yet more oppress'd. If there are too many who cannot be assisted but by what we cannot give, our Money; there are yet others who may be relieved by our Counsel, by our Countenance, and even by our Chearfulness. The Misfortunes of private Families, the Misunderstandings of People whom Distresses make suspicious, the Coldness of Relations whom Change of Religion may disunite, or the Necessities of half ruin'd Estates render unkind to each other; these at least may be softened in some Degree, by a general well-managed Humanity among ourselves; if all those who have your Principles of Belief, had also your Sense and Conduct. But indeed most of them have given lamentable Proofs of the contrary; and it is to be apprehended that they who want Sense, are only religious through Weakness, and good-natur'd through Shame. These are narrow-minded Creatures that never deal in Essentials, their Faith never looks beyond Ceremonials, nor their Charity beyond Relations. As poor as I am, I would gladly relieve any distressed, conscientious *French* Refugee at this Instant: what must my Concern then be, when I perceive so many Anxieties now tearing those Hearts, which I have desired a Place in, and Clouds of Melancholy rising on those Faces, which I have long look'd upon with Affection? I begin already to feel both what some apprehend, and what others are yet too stupid to apprehend. I grieve with the Old, for so many additional Inconveniences and Chagrins, more than their small Remain of Life seem'd destined to undergo; and with the Young for so many of those Gaieties and Pleasures (the Portion of Youth) which they will by this Means be deprived

prived of. This brings into my Mind one or other of those I love best, and among them the Widow and Fatherless, late of —. As I am certain no People living had an earlier and truer Sense of others Misfortunes, or a more generous Resignation as to what might be their own, so I earnestly wish that whatever Part they must bear, may be rendered as supportable to them, as it is in the Power of any Friend to make it.

But I know you have prevented me in this Thought, as you always will in every Thing that is good, or generous: I find by a Letter of your Lady's (which I have seen) that their Ease and Tranquillity is Part of your Care. I believe there's some Fatality in it, that you should always, from Time to Time, be doing those particular Things that make me enamour'd of you.

I write this from *Windsor-Forest*, of which I am come to take my last Look. We here bid our Neighbours adieu, much as those who go to be hang'd do their Fellow Prisoners, who are condemn'd to follow them a few Weeks after. I parted from honest Mr. D. with Tenderness; and from old Sir *William Trumbull* as from a venerable Prophet, foretelling with lifted Hands the Miseries to come, from which he is just going to be removed himself.

Perhaps, now I have learnt so far as

Nos dulcia linquimus arva,

my next Lesson may be

Nos Patriam fugimus.

Let that, and all else be as Heaven pleases! I have provided just enough to keep me a Man of Honour. I believe you and I shall never be ashamed of each other. I know I wish my Country well, and, if it undoes me, it shall not make me wish it otherwise.

L E T.

LETTERS to and
LETTER VII.
FROM MR. BLOUNT.

March 24, 1715-16

YOUR Letters give me a Gleam of Satisfaction, in the midst of a very dark and cloudy Situation of Thoughts, which it would be more than human to be exempt from at this Time, when our Homes must either be left, or be made too narrow for us to turn in. Poetically speaking, I should lament the Loss *Windfor-Forest* and you sustain of each other, but that methinks, one can't say you are parted, because you will live by and in one another, while Verse is Verse. This Consideration hardens me in my Opinion rather to congratulate you, since you have the Pleasure of the Prospect whenever you take it from your Shelf, and at the same Time the solid Cash you sold it for, of which *Virgil* in his Exile knew nothing in those Days, and which will make every Place easy to you. I for my Part am not so happy; my *parva rura* are fastened to me, so that I can't exchange them, as you have, for more portable Means of Subsistence; and yet I hope to gather enough to make the *Patriam fugimus* supportable to me: 'tis what I am resolved on, with my *Penate*. If therefore you ask me, to whom you shall complain? I will exhort you to leave Laziness and the Elms of *St. James's Park*, and choose to join the other two Proposals in one, Safety and Friendship (the least of which is a good Motive for most Things, as the other is for almost every Thing) and go with me where War will not reach us, nor pauntry Constables summon us to Vestries.

The future Epistle you flatter me with, will find me still here, and I think I may be here a Month longer. Whenever I go from hence, one of the few Reasons to make me regret my Home will be, that I shall not have the Pleasure of saying to you,

Hic

from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ.

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Hic tamen hanc mecum poteris requiescere noctem,

which would have rendered this Place more agreeable than ever else it could be to me; for I protest, it is with the utmost Sincerity that I assure you, I am entirely,

Dear Sir,

Your, &c.

L E T-

LETTER VIII.

June 22, 1717.

IF a Regard both to public and private Affairs may plead a lawful Excuse in Behalf of a negligent Correspondent, I have really a very good Title to it. I cannot say whether 'tis a Felicity or Unhappiness, that I am obliged at this Time to give my whole Application to *Homer*; when without that Employment, my Thoughts must turn upon what is less agreeable, the Violence, Madness, and Resentment of modern War-makers^a, which are likely to prove (to some People at least) more fatal, than the same Qualities in *Achilles* did to his unfortunate Countrymen.

Tho' the Change of my Scene of Life, from *Wind-for-Forest* to the Side of the *Thames*, be one of the grand Era's of my Days, and may be called a notable Period in so inconsiderable a History: yet you can scarce imagine any Hero passing from one Stage of Life to another, with so much Tranquillity, so easy a Transition, and so laudable a Behaviour. I am become so truly a Citizen of the World (according to *Plato's* Expression) that I look with equal Indifference on what I have left, and on what I have gained. The Times and Amusements past are not more like a Dream to me, than those which are present: I lie in a refreshing Kind of Inaction, and have one Comfort at least from Obscurity, that the Darknefs helps me to sleep the better. I now and then reflect upon the Enjoyment of my Friends, whom, I fancy, I remember much as separate Spirits do us, at tender Intervals, neither interrupting their own Employments, nor altogether careless of ours, but in general constantly wishing us well, and hoping to have us one Day in their Company.

To grow indifferent to the World is to grow philosophical,

^a This was written in the Year of the Affair at Preston.

from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ.

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sophical, or religious (which soever of those Turns we chance to take) and indeed the World is such a Thing, as one that thinks pretty much, must either laugh at, or be angry with : but if we laugh at it, they say we are proud ; and if we are angry with it, they say we are ill-natured. So the most politic Way is to seem always better pleased than one can be, greater Admirers, greater Lovers, and in short greater Fools, than we really are : so shall we live comfortably with our Families, quietly with our Neighbours, favoured by our Masters, and happy with our Mistresses. I have filled my Paper, and so adieu.

LET-

LETTER IX.

Sept. 8, 1717.

I THINK your leaving *England* was like a good Man's leaving the World, with the blessed Conscience of having acted well in it; and I hope you have received your Reward, in being happy where you are. I believe in the religious Country you inhabit, you'll be better pleased to find I consider you in this Light, than if I compared you to those *Greeks* and *Romans*, whose Constancy in suffering Pain, and whose Resolution in Pursuit of a generous End, you would rather imitate than boast of.

But I had a melancholy Hint the other Day, as if you were yet a Martyr to the Fatigue your Virtue made you undergo on this Side the Water. I beg, if your Health be restored to you, not to deny me the Joy of knowing it. Your Endeavours of Service and good Advice to the poor Papists, puts me in Mind of *Noah's* preaching forty Years to those Folks that were to be drowned at last. At the worst I heartily wish your Ark may find an *Ararat*, and the Wife and Family (the Hopes of the good Patriarch) land safely after the Deluge upon the Shore of *Totness*.

If I durst mix prophane with sacred History, I would cheer you with the old Tale of *Brutus* the wandering *Trojan*, who found on that very Coast the happy End of his Peregrinations and Adventures.

I have very lately read *Jeffery* of *Monmouth* (to whom your *Cornwall* is not a little beholden) in the Translation of a Clergyman in my Neighbourhood. The poor Man is highly concerned to vindicate *Jeffery's* Veracity as an Historian; and told me he was perfectly astonished, we of the *Roman* Communion could doubt of the Legends of his Giants, while we believe those of our Saints. I am forced to make a fair Composition with him; and, by crediting some of the Wonders of *Corinaeus* and *Gogmagog*, have brought him

him so far already, that he speaks respectfully of *St. Christopher's* carrying Christ, and the Resuscitation of *St. Nicholas Tolentine's* Chicken. Thus we proceed apace in converting each other from all Manner of Infidelity.

Ajax and *Hector* are no more to be compared to *Corineus* and *Arthur*, than the *Guelphs* and *Gibellines* are to the *Mobocks* of ever dreadful Memory. This amazing Writer has made me lay aside *Homer* for a Week, and when I take him up again, I shall be very well prepared to translate, with Belief and Reverence, the Speech of *Achilles's* Horse.

You'll excuse all this trifling, or any Thing else which prevents a Sheet full of Compliment: and believe there is nothing more true (even more true than any Thing in *Jeffery* is false) than that I have a constant Affection for you, and am, &c.

P. S. I know you will take Part in rejoicing for the Victory of Prince *Eugene* over the *Turks*, in the Zeal you bear to the Christian Interest, though your Cousin of *Oxford* (with whom I dined Yesterday) says, there is no other Difference in the Christians beating the *Turks*, or the *Turks* beating the Christians, than whether the Emperor shall first declare War against *Spain*, or *Spain* declare it against the Emperor.

L E T.

LETTER X.

Nov. 27, 1717.

THE Question you proposed to me is what at present I am the most unfit Man in the World to answer, by my Loss of one of the best of Fathers.

He had lived in such a Course of Temperance as was enough to make the longest Life agreeable to him, and in such a Course of Piety as sufficed to make the most sudden Death so also. Sudden indeed it was: However, I heartily beg of God to give me such a one, provided I can lead such a Life. I leave him to the Mercy of God, and to the Piety of a Religion that extends beyond the Grave: *Si qua est ea cura, &c.*

He has left me to the ticklish Management of so narrow a Fortune, that any one false Step would be fatal. My Mother is in that dispirited State of Resignation, which is the Effect of long Life, and the Loss of what is dear to us. We are really each of us in Want of a Friend, of such an humane Turn as yourself, to make almost any Thing desirable to us. I feel your Absence more than ever, at the same Time I can less express my Regards to you than ever; and shall make this, which is the most sincere Letter I ever writ to you, the shortest and faintest perhaps of any you have received. 'Tis enough if you reflect, that barely to remember any Person when one's Mind is taken up with a sensible Sorrow, is a great Degree of Friendship. I can say no more but that I love you, and all that are yours; and that I wish it may be very long before any of yours shall feel for you what I now feel for my Father. Adieu.

LET-

from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ

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LETTER XI.

Rentcomb in Gloucestershire, Oct. 3, 1721

YOUR kind Letter has overtaken me here, for I have been in and about this Country ever since your Departure. I am well pleas'd to date this from a Place so well known to Mrs. Blount, where I write as if I were dictated to by her Ancestors, whose Faces are all upon me. I fear none so much as Sir *Christopher Guise*, who, being in his Shirt, seems as ready to combat me, as her own Sir *John* was to demolish Duke *Lancaster*. I dare say your Lady will recollect his Figure. I look'd upon the Mansion, Walls, and Terraces; the Plantations, and Slopes, which Nature has made to command a Variety of Vales and rising Woods; with a Veneration mix'd with a Pleasure, that represented her to me in those puerile Amusements, which engaged her so many Years ago in this Place. I fancied I saw her sober over a Sampler, or gay over a jointed Baby. I dare say she did one Thing more, even in those early Times; "remember'd her Creator in the Days of her Youth."

You describe so well your hermitical State of Life, that none of the ancient Anchorites could go beyond you, for a Cave in a Rock, with a fine Spring, or any of the Accommodations that besit a Solitary. Only I don't remember to have read, that any of those venerable and holy Personages took with them a Lady, and begat Sons and Daughters. You must modestly be content to be accounted a Patriarch. But were you a little younger, I should rather rank you with Sir *Amadis*, and his Fellows. If Piety be so romantic, I shall turn Hermit in good Earnest; for, I see, one may go so far as to be poetical, and hope to save one's Soul at the same Time. I really wish myself something more, that is, a Prophet; for I wish I were, as *Habakkuk*, to be taken by the Hair of his Head, and visit *Daniel* in his Den. You are

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very obliging in saying, I have now a whole Family upon my Hands to whom to discharge the Part of a Friend; I assure you, I like them all so well, that I will never quit my hereditary Right to them; you have made me yours, and consequently them mine. I still see them walking on my Green at *Twickenham*, and gratefully remember not only their green Gowns, but the Instructions they gave me how to slide down and trip up the steepest Slopes of my Mount.

Pray think of me sometimes, as I shall often of you; and know me for what I am, that is,

Your, &c.

L E T T E R
I have lay your Lady will recollect
his Picture. I look'd upon the Mansion, Wallis, and
Terraces; the Plantations, and Slopes, which Mr.
ture has made to command a Variety of Views, and
the Woods; with a Venerable man, with a Pro-
fess, that represented her to me in those pictures
Amusements, which engaged her to many Years ago
in this Place. I fancied I saw her lober over a stamp-
let, or gray over a jointed baby. I dare say she did
one thing more, even in those early Times; "re-
member'd her Creator in the Days of her Youth."
You continue to well your hereditary State of Life,
that none of the subtle Anathemas could go beyond
you, that Gave in a Book, with a fair Spring, or
any of the Accommodations that best a Solitary. On-
ly I don't remember to have read, that any of those
venerable and holy Personages took with them a La-
dy, and begat sons and Daughters. You must mo-
destly be content to be accounted a Partisan. But
with all this, I should rather rank you
romantic; I shall own Hermit in good Earnest; for,
I see, one may go to far as to be poetical, and hope
to save one's soul at the same Time. I really wish
myself something more, that is, a Prophet; for I
with I were, as *Isaiah*, to be taken by the Hair
of my head, and with *David*, in his Den. You are

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from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ.

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LETTER XII.

Oct. 21, 1721.

YOUR very kind and obliging Manner of enquiring after me, among the first Concerns of Life, at your Resuscitation, should have been sooner answered and acknowledged. I sincerely rejoice at your Recovery from an Illness which gave me less Pain than it did you, only from my Ignorance of it. It should have else been seriously and deeply affected, in the Thought of your Danger by a Fever. I think it a fine and natural Thought, which I lately read in a Letter of *Montaigne's* published by *P. Coste*, giving an Account of the last Words of an intimate Friend of his: "Adieu, my Friend! the Pain I feel will soon be over; but I grieve for that you are to feel, which is to last you for Life." I join with your Family in giving God Thanks for lending us a worthy Man somewhat longer. The Comforts you receive from their Attendance, put me in Mind of what old *Fletcher of Saltune* said one Day to me. "Alas, I have nothing to do but to die; I am a poor Individual; no Creature to wish, or to fear, for my Life or Death: 'Tis the only Reason I have to repent being a single Man; now I grow old, I am like a Tree without a Prop, and without young Trees to grow round me for Company and Defence."

I hope the Gout will soon go after the Fever, and all evil Things remove far from you. But pray tell me, when will you move towards us? If you had an Interval to get hither, I care not what fixes you afterwards except the Gout. Pray come, and never stir from us again. Do away your dirty Acres, cast them to dirty People, such as in the Scripture-phrase possess the Land. Shake off your Earth like the noble Animal in *Milton*.

*The tawny Lyon, pawing to get free
His hinder Parts, he springs as broke from Bonds,
And rampant shakes his brindled Mane: the Ounce,
The Lizard, and the Tiger, as the Mole
Rising, the crumbled Earth above them throw
In Hillocks?*

But, I believe, *Milton* never thought these fine Verses of his should be apply'd to a Man selling a Parcel of dirty Acres; though in the Main, I think, it may have some Resemblance. For, God knows! this little Space of Ground nourishes, buries, and confines us, as that of *Eden* did those Creatures, till we can shake it loose, at least in our Affections and Desires.

Believe, dear Sir, I truly love and value you: let *Mrs. Blount* know that she is in the List of my *Memento's*, *Domine, famulorum famularumque's*, &c. My poor Mother is far from well, declining; and I am watching over her, as we watch an expiring Taper, that even when it looks brightest, waxes fastest. I am (as you will see from the whole Air of this Letter,) not in the gayest nor easiest Humour, but always with Sincerity,

Your, &c.

LET.

LETTER XIII.

June 27, 1723.

YOU may truly do me the Justice to think no Man is more your sincere Well-wisher than myself, or more the sincere Well-wisher of your whole Family; with all which, I cannot deny but I have a Mixture of Envy to you all, for loving one another so well; and for enjoying the Sweets of that Life, which can only be tasted by People of Good-will.

*They from all Shades the Darkness can exclude,
And from a Desert banish Solitude.*

Torrey is a Paradise, and a Storm is but an Amusement to such People. If you drink Tea upon a Promontory that over-hangs the Sea, it is preferable to an Assembly: and the whistling of the Winds better Music to contented and loving Minds, than the Opera to the spleenful, ambitious, diseas'd, distasted, and distracted Souls which this World affords; nay, this World affords no other. Happy they, who are banish'd from us! but happier they, who can banish themselves; or more properly banish the World from them!

Alas! I live at *Twickenham*!

I take that Period to be very sublime, and to include more than an hundred Sentences that might be writ to express Distraction, Hurry, Multiplication of Nothings, and all the fatiguing perpetual Business of having no Business to do. You'll wonder I reckon translating the *Odyssey* as nothing. But whenever I think seriously (and of late I have met with so many Occasions of thinking seriously, that I begin never to think otherwise) I cannot but think these Things very idle; as idle as if a Beast of Burden should go on jingling his Bells, without bearing any Thing valuable about him, or ever serving his Master.

*Life's vain Amusements, amidst which we dwell;
Not weigh'd, or understood, by the grim God of
Hell!*

said a Heathen Poet; as he is translated by a Christian Bishop, who has, first by his Exhortations, and since by his Example, taught me to think as becomes a reasonable Creature—but he is gone!

I remember I promis'd to write to you, as soon as I should hear you were got Home. You must look on this as the first Day I've been myself, and pass over the mad Interval un-imputed to me. How punctual a Correspondent I shall henceforward be able or not able to be, God knows: but He knows, I shall ever be a punctual and grateful Friend, and all the good Wishes of such an one will ever attend you.

Alas! I live at Trillickham!
I take that Period to be very sublime, and to include more than an hundred Sentences that might be writ to express Distraction, Hurry, Multiplication of Nothings, and all the raging perpetual Burdens of **THE** World to do. You'll wonder I reckon trifling the **OF** a Nothing. But whenever I think seriously (and of late I have met with many Occasions of thinking seriously, that I begin never to think otherwise) I cannot but think these Things very idle; as idle as if a Head of Burden should go on ringing his Bells, without bearing any Thing valuable about him, or ever leaving his Master.

from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ.

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LETTER XIV.

Twick'nam, June 2, 1725.

YOU shew yourself a just Man and a Friend in those GuesSES and Suppositions you make at the possible Reasons of my Silence ; every one of which is a true one. As to Forgetfulness of you or yours, I assure you, the promiscuous Conversation of the Town serve only to put me in Mind of better, and more Quiet, to be had in a Corner of the World (undisturb'd, innocent, serene, and sensible) with such as you. Let no Access of any Distrust make you think of me differently in a clouded Day from what you do in the most sunshiny Weather. Let the young Ladies be assured I make nothing new in my Gardens without wishing to see the Print of their Fairy Steps in every Part of them. I have put the last Hand to my Works of this Kind, in happily finishing the subterraneous Way and Grotto : I there found a Spring of the clearest Water, which falls in a perpetual Rill, that echoes thro' the Cavern Day and Night. From the River *Thames*, you see thro' my Arch-up a Walk of the Wilderness, to a Kind of open Temple, wholly compos'd of Shells in the rustic Manner ; and from that Distance under the Temple you look down thro' a sloping Arcade of Trees, and see the Sails on the River passing suddenly and vanishing, as thro' a perspective Glas. When you shut the Doors of this Grotto, it becomes on the Instant, from a luminous Room, a *Camera obscura* ; on the Walls of which all the Objects of the River, Hills, Woods, and Boats, are forming a moving Picture in their visible Radiations : and when you have a Mind to light it up, it affords you a very different Scene ; it is finished with Shells interspersed with Pieces of Looking-glass in angular Forms ; and in the Cieling is a Star of the same Material, at which when a Lamp (of an orbicular Figure of thin Alabaster

baster) is hung in the Middle, a thousand pointed Rays glitter, and are reflected over the Place. There are connected to this Grotto by a narrower Passage two Porches, one towards the River of smooth Stones full of light, and open; the other towards the Garden shadow'd with Trees, rough with Shells, Flints, and Iron-ore. The Bottom is paved with simple Pebble, as is also the adjoining Walk up the Wilderness to the Temple, in the natural Taste, agreeing not ill with the little dripping Murmur, and the aquatic Idea of the whole Place. It wants nothing to compleat it but a good Statue with an Inscription, like that beautiful antique one which you know I am so fond of,

Hujus Nympha loci, sacri custodia fontis,

Dormio, dum blandæ sentio murmur aquæ.

Parce meum, quisquis tangis cava marmora, som-
num

Rumpere; si bibas, sive lavere, tace.

Nymph of the Grot, these sacred Springs I keep,
And to the Murmur of these Waters sleep;
Ah spare my Slumbers, gently tread the Cave!
And drink in Silence, or in Silence lave!

You'll think I have been very poetical in this Description, but it is pretty near the Truth^a. I wish you were here to bear Testimony how little it owes to Art, either the Place itself, or the Image I give of it.

I am, &c.

^a He had greatly enlarged and improved this Grotto not long before his Death: and, by incrusting it about with a great Number of Ores and Minerals of the richest and rarest Kinds, it was become one of the most elegant and romantic Retirements any where to be seen. He has made it the Subject of a very pretty Poem of a singular Cast and Composition.

L E T.

from EDW. BLOUNT, ESQ.

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LETTER XV.

Sept. 13, 1725.

I SHOULD be asham'd to own the Receipt of a very kind Letter from you, two whole Months from the Date of this; if I were not more ashamed to tell a Lye, or to make an Excuse, which is worse than a Lye (for being built upon some probable Circumstance, it makes Use of a Degree of Truth to falsify with, and is a Lye guarded.) Your Letter has been in my Pocket in constant wearing, till that, and the Pocket, and the Suit, are worn out; by which Means I have read it forty Times, and I find by so doing, that I have not enough considered and reflected upon many others you have obliged me with; for true Friendship, as they say of good Writing, will bear reviewing a thousand Times, and still discover new Beauties.

I have had a Fever, a short one; but a violent: I am now well, so it shall take up no more of this Paper.

I begin now to expect you in Town to make the Winter to come more tolerable to us both. The Summer is a Kind of Heaven, when we wander in a paradisaical Scene among Groves and Gardens; but at this Season, we are, like our poor first Parents, turn'd out of that agreeable though solitary Life, and forced to look about for more People to help to bear our Labours, to get into warmer Houses, and live together in Cities.

I hope you are long since perfectly restor'd, and risen from your Gout, happy, in the Delights of a contented Family, smiling at Storms, laughing at Greatness, merry over a Christmas-fire, and exercising all the Functions of an old Patriarch in Charity and Hospitality. I will not tell Mrs. B* what I think she is doing; for I conclude it is her Opinion, that he only ought to know it for whom it is done;

C 5.

and

E T.

and she will allow herself to be far enough advanced above a fine Lady, not to desire to shine before Men.

Your Daughters perhaps may have some other Thoughts, which even their Mother must excuse them for, because she is a Mother. I will not however suppose those Thoughts get the better of their Devotions, but rather excite them and assist the Warmth of them; while their Prayer may be, that they may raise up and breed as many more of such young Family as their Parents have done. In a Word, I fancy you all well, easy, and happy, just as I wish you; and next to that, I wish you all with me.

Next to God, is a good Man; next in Dignity, and next in Value. *Ministi eum paulo minus ab angelis.* If therefore I wish well to the Good and the Deserving, and desire they only should be my Companions and Correspondents, I must very soon and very much think of you. I want your Company, and your Example. Pray make Haste to Town, so as not again to leave us to discharge the Load of Earth that lies on you, like one of the Mountains under which, the Poets say, the Giants (the Men of the Earth) are whelmed: leave Earth, to the Sons of the Earth; your Conversation is in Heaven. Which, that it may be accomplish'd on us all, is the Prayer of him who maketh this short Sermon; Value (to you) Three pence. Adieu.

Mr. Blount died in London the following Year, 1726.

L. E. T.

LETTERS

TO AND FROM

THE HON. ROBERT DIGBY,

From 1717 to 1727.

LETTER I.

TO THE HON. ROBERT DIGBY.

June 2, 1717.

I HAD pleas'd myself sooner in writing to you, but that I have been your Successor in a Fit of Sickness, and am not yet so much recovered, but that I have Thoughts of using your * Physicians. They are as grave Persons as any of the Faculty, and (like the Ancients) carry their own Medicaments about with them. But indeed the Moderns are such Lovers of Raillery, that nothing is grave enough to escape them. Let them laugh, but People will still have their Opinions: as they think our Doctors Asses to them, we'll think them Asses to our Doctors.

I am glad you are in so much a better State of Health, as to allow me to jest about it. My Concern, when I heard of your Danger, was so very serious, that
I almost

* *Asses.*

I almost take it ill Dr. *Evans* should tell you of it, or you mention it. I tell you fairly, if you and a few more such People were to leave the World, I would not give Sixpence to stay in it.

I am not so much concerned as to the Point whether you are to live fat or lean: most Men of Wit or Honesty are usually decreed to live very lean: so I am inclined to the Opinion that 'tis decreed you shall; however be comforted, and reflect, that you'll make the better Busto for it.

'Tis something particular in you, not to be satisfied with sending me your own Books, but to make your Acquaintance continue the Frolic. Mr. *Wharton* forced me to take *Gorboduc*, which has since done me great Credit with several People, as it has done *Dryden* and *Oldham* some Diskindness: in shewing there is as much Difference between their *Gorboduc* and this, as between *Queen Anne*, and King *George*. It is truly a Scandal, that Men should write with Contempt of a Piece which they never once saw, as those two Poets did, who are ignorant even of the Sex, as well as Sense, of *Gorboduc* ^b.

Adieu! I am going to forget you: this Minute you took up all my Mind; the next I shall think of nothing but the Reconciliation with *Agamemnon*, and the Recovery of *Briseis*. I shall be *Achilles's* humble Servant these two Months (with the good Leave of all my Friends.) I have no Ambition so strong at present, as that noble one of Sir *Salathiel Lovel*, Recorder of *London*, to furnish out a decent and plentiful Execution, of *Greeks* and *Trojans*. It is not to be express'd how heartily I wish the Death of all *Homers's* Heroes, one after another. The Lord preserve me in the Day of Battle which is just approaching! join in your Prayers for me, and know me to be always,

Your, &c.

^b There is a correct Edition of it in the Collection of old Plays published by Doddsley.

LETTER II.

London, March 31, 1718.

TO convince you how little Pain I give myself in corresponding with Men of good Nature and good Understanding, you see I omit to answer your Letters till a Time, when another Man would be ashamed to own he had received them. If therefore you are ever moved on my Account by that Spirit, which I take to be as familiar to you as a quotidian Ague, I mean the Spirit of Goodness, pray never stint it, in any Fear of obliging me to a Civility beyond my natural Inclination. I dare trust you, Sir, not only with my Folly when I write, but with my Negligence when I do not; and expect equally your Pardon for either.

If I knew how to entertain you through the rest of this Paper, it should be spotted and diversified with Conceits all over: you should be put out of Breath with Laughter at each Sentence, and pause at each Period, to look back over how much Wit you have pass'd. But I have found by Experience that People now a-Days regard Writing as little as they do Preaching: the most we can hope is to be heard just with Decency and Patience, once a Week, by Folks in the Country. Here in Town we hum over a Piece of fine Writing, and we whistle at a Sermon. The Stage is the only Place we seem alive at! there indeed we stare, and roar, and clap Hands for King George and the Government. As for all other Virtues but this Loyalty, they are an obsolete Train, so ill-dress'd, that Men, Women, and Children hiss them out of all good Company. Humility knocks so sneakingly at the Door that every Footman outraps it, and makes it give Way to the free Entrance of Pride, Prodigality, and Vain-glory.

My Lady Scudamore, from having rusticated in your Company too long, really behaves herself scandalously

dalously among us: she pretends to open her Eyes for the Sake of seeing the Sun, and to sleep because it is Night; drinks Tea at nine in the Morning, and is thought to have said her Prayers before: talks, without any Manner of Shame, of good Books, and has not seen *Cibber's* Play of the *Monjuror*. I rejoiced the other Day to see a Libel on her Toilette, which gives me some Hope that you have, at least, a Taste of Scandal left you, in Defect of all other Vices.

Upon the whole Matter, I heartily wish you well, but as I cannot entirely desire the Ruin of all the Joys of this City, so all that remains is to wish you would keep your Happiness to yourselves, that the happiest here may not die with Envy at a Bliss which they cannot attain to.

I am, &c.

LET.

From M R. DIGBY.

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LETTER III.

FROM MR. DIGBY.

Colehill, April 17, 1718.

I HAVE read your Letter over and over with Delight. By your Description of the Town, I imagine it to lie under some great Enchantment, and am very much concerned for you and all my Friends in it. I am the more afraid, imagining, since you do not fly those horrible Monsters, Rapine, Dissimulation, and Luxury, that a magic Circle is drawn about you, and you cannot escape. We are here in the Country in quite another World, surrounded with Blessings and Pleasures, without any Occasion of exercising our irascible Faculties; indeed we cannot boast of Good-breeding and the Art of Life, but yet we don't live unpleasantly in primitive Simplicity and Good-humour. The Fashions of the Town affect us but just like a Raree-show, we have a Curiosity to peep at it, and nothing more. What you call Pride, Prodigality, and Vain-glory, we cannot find in Pomp and Splendor at this Distance; it appears to us a fine glittering Scene, which if we don't envy you, we think you happier than we are, in your enjoying it. Whatever you may think to persuade us of the Humility of Virtue, and her appearing in Rags amongst you, we can never believe: our uninform'd Minds represent her so noble to us, that we necessarily annex Splendor to her: and we could as soon imagine the Order of Things inverted, and that there is no Man in the Moon, as believe the contrary. I can't forbear telling you we indeed read the Spoils of Rapine as Boys do the *English* Rogue, and hug ourselves full as much over it; yet our Roses are not without Thorns. Pray give me the Pleasure of hearing (when you are at Leisure) how soon I may expect to see the next Volume of *Homer*. I am, &c.

L E T

LETTER IV.

May 1, 1720.

YOU'LL think me very full of myself, when after long Silence (which however, to say Truth, has rather been employ'd to contemplate of you than to forget you) I begin to talk of my own Works! I find it is in the finishing a Book, as in concluding a Session of Parliament, one always thinks it will be very soon, and finds it very late. There are many unlook'd-for Incidents to retard the clearing any public Account, and so I see it is in mine. I have plagued myself, like great Ministers, with Undertakings too much for one Man; and with a Desire of doing more than was expected from me, have done less than I ought.

For having designed four very laborious and uncommon Sort of Indexes to *Homer*, I'm forced, for Want of Time, to publish two only: the Design of which you will own to be pretty, tho' far from being fully executed. I've also been obliged to leave unfinish'd in my Desk the Heads of two Essays, one on the Theology and Morality of *Homer*, and another on the Oratory of *Homer* and *Virgil*. So they must wait for future Editions, or perish: and (one Way or other, no great Matter which) *dabit Deus his quoque finem*. I think of you every Day, I assure you, even without such good Memorials of you as your Sisters, with whom I sometimes talk of you, and find it one of the most agreeable of all Subjects to them. My Lord *Digby* must be perpetually remember'd by all who ever knew him, or knew his Children. There needs no more than Acquaintance with your Family, to make all elder Sons wish they had Fathers to their Lives End.

I can't touch upon the Subject of filial Love, without putting you in Mind of an old Woman, who has a sincere, hearty, old-fashioned Respect for you, and
constantly

constantly blames her Son for not having writ to you oftener to tell you so.

I very much wish (but what signifies my Wishing? my Lady *Scudamore* wishes, your Sisters wish) that you were with us, to compare the beautiful Contrast this Season affords us, of the Town and the Country. No Ideas you could form in the Winter can make you imagine what *Twickenham* is (and what your Friend Mr. *Johnson* of *Twickenham* is) in this warmer Season. Our River glitters beneath an unclouded Sun, at the same Time that its Banks retain the Verdure of Showers: our Gardens are offering their first Nodgays; our Trees, like new Acquaintance brought happily together, are stretching their Arms to meet each other, and growing nearer and nearer every Hour; the Birds are paying their thanksgiving Songs for the new Habitations I have made them: my Building rises high enough to attract the Eye and Curiosity of the Passenger from the River, where, upon beholding a Mixture of Beauty and Ruin, he enquires what House is falling, or what Church is rising? So little Taste have our common Tritons of *Vitruvius*; whatever Delight the poetical Gods of the River may take, in reflecting on their Streams, my *Tuscan* Porticos, or *Ionic* Pilasters.

But (to descend from all this Pomp of Style) the best Account of what I am building is, that it will afford me a few pleasant Rooms for such a Friend as yourself, or a cool Situation for an Hour or two for Lady *Scudamore*, when she will do me the Honour (at this public House on the Road) to drink her own Cyder.

The Moment I am writing this, I am surprised with the Account of the Death of a Friend of mine; which makes all I have here been talking of, a mere Jest! Building, Gardens, Writings, Pleasures, Works of whatever Stuff Man can raise! none of them (God knows) capable of advantaging a Creature that is mortal, or of satisfying a Soul that is immortal!

Dear Sir,

I am, &c.

L E T.

LETTERS to and
LETTER V.
FROM MR. DIGBY.

May 21, 1720.

YOUR Letter, which I had two Posts ago, was very medicinal to me; and I heartily thank you for the Relief it gave me. I was sick of the Thoughts of my not having in all this Time given you any Testimony of the Affection I owe you, and which I as constantly indeed feel as I think of you. This indeed was a troublesome Ill to me, till, after reading your Letter, I found it was a most idle weak Imagination to think I could so offend you. Of all the Impressions you have made upon me, I never receiv'd any with greater Joy than this of your abundant Good-nature, which bids me be assured of some Share of your Affections.

I had many other Pleasures from your Letter; that your Mother remembers me is a very sincere Joy to me; I cannot but reflect how alike you are; from the Time you do any one a Favour, you think yourselves obliged as those that have received one. This is indeed an old-fashioned Respect, hardly to be found out of your House. I have great Hopes, however, to see so many old-fashioned Virtues revive, since you have made our Age in Love with *Homer*; I heartily wish you, who are as good a Citizen as a Poet, the Joy of seeing a Reformation from your Works. I am in Doubt whether I should congratulate your having finished *Homer*, while the two Essays you mention are not compleated; but if you expect no great Trouble from finishing these, I heartily rejoice with you.

I have some faint Notion of the Beauties at *Twickenham* from what I here see round me. The Verdure of Showers is poured upon every Tree and Field about us; the Gardens unfold Variety of Colours to the Eye every Morning; the Hedges Breath is beyond
all

all Perfume, and the Song of Birds we hear as well as you. But tho' I hear and see all this, yet I think they would delight me more if you was here. I found the Want of these at *Twickenham* while I was there with you, by which I guess what an Increase of Charms it must now have. How kind is it in you to wish me there, and how unfortunate are my Circumstances that allow me not to visit you? If I see you, I must leave my Father alone, and this uneasy Thought would disappoint all my proposed Pleasures; the same Circumstances will prevent my Prospect of many happy Hours with you in Lord *Bathurst's* Wood, and I fear of seeing you till Winter, unless Lady *Scudamore* comes to *Sherburne*, in which Case I shall press you to see *Dorsetshire*, as you proposed. May you have a long Enjoyment of your new favourite Portico.

Your, &c.

L E T.

LETTER VI.

FROM MR. DIGBY.

Sherburne, July 9, 1720.

THE *London* Language and Conversation is, I find, quite changed since I left it, tho' it is not above three or four Months ago. No violent Change in the natural World ever astonish'd a Philosopher so much as this does me. I hope this will calm all Party Rage, and introduce more Humanity than has of late obtained in Conversation. All Scandal will sure be laid aside, for there can be no such Disease any more as Spleen in this new golden Age. I am pleas'd with the Thoughts of seeing nothing but a general Good-humour when I come up to Town; I rejoice in the universal Riches I hear of, in the Thoughts of their having this Effect. They tell me you was soon content; and that you cared not for such an Increase as others wish'd you. By this Account I judge you the richest Man in the *South Sea*, and congratulate you accordingly. I can wish you only an Increase of Health, for of Riches and Fame you have enough.

Your, &c.

LET-

from M R. DIGBY.

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LETTER VII.

July 20, 1720.

YOUR kind Desire to know the State of my Health had not been unsatisfied so long, had not that ill State been the Impediment. Nor should I have seem'd an unconcerned Party in the Joys of your Family, which I heard from Lady Scudamore, whose short Eschantillon of a Letter (of a Quarter of a Page) I value as the short Glimpse of a Vision afforded to some devout Hermit; for it includes (as those Revelations do) a Promise of a better Life in the Elysian Groves of *Cirencester*, whither, I could say almost in the Style of a Sermon, the Lord bring us all, &c. Thither may we tend, by various Ways, to one blisful Bower: thither may Health, Peace, and Good-humour wait upon us as Associates, thither may whole Cargoes of Nectar (Liquor of Life and Longævity!) by Mortals call'd Spa Water, be convey'd; and there (as *Milton* has it) may we, like the Deities,

*On Flow'rs repos'd, and with fresh Garlands crown'd
Quaff Immortality and Joy.*

When I speak of Garlands, I should not forget the green Vestments and Scarfs, which your Sisters promis'd to make for this Purpose: I expect you too in Green, with a Hunting-horn by your Side, and a green Hat, the Model of which you may take from *Osborne's* Description of King *James* the first.

What Words, what Numbers, what Oratory, or what Poetry, can suffice, to express how infinitely I esteem, value, love, and desire you all, above all the great ones of this Part of the World; above all the Jews, Jobbers, Bubblers, Subscribers, Projectors, Directors, Governors, Treasurers, &c. &c. &c.
in sæcula sæculorum.

Turn

Turn your Eyes and Attention from this miserable mercenary Period; and turn yourself, in a just Contempt of these Sons of Mammon, to the Contemplation of Books, Gardens, and Marriage: in which I leave you, and return (*Wretch that I am*) to Water-Gruel and *Palladio*.

Health had not been unattained. Not should not still state been the impediment. Nor should I have an unconcerned Party in the love of your family, which I have from Lady Jane's whole (from Elizabeth of a better (of a Quarter of a Page) I value as the short Glimpse of a Vision afforded to some devout Hermit; for it includes (as those Revelations do) a Promise of a better Life in the Elysian Groves of Civility, which I could say, almost in the State of a Nation, the Land being us all, &c. Thither may we lead, by various Ways, to one blissful Bay; thither may Health, Peace, and Good-humour wait upon us as Associates; thither may whole Caravans of Nectar (Liquor of Life and Longevity) by Months call'd Sea Water, be convey'd; and there (as Milton has it) may we, like the Demes,

On Flow'rs repose, and with soft Grains
Sweet immortality and Joy.

When I speak of Gardens, I should not forget *Green*. *Green* in Vestments and scarfs, which your Sister promised to make for this Purpose: I expect you too in Green, with a Hunting-horn by your side, and a green hat, the Model of which you may take from *Queen's* Description of King James the first.

What Words, what Numbers, what Orators, or what Poetry, can suffice, to express how infinitely I esteem, value, love, and desire you all, above all the great ones of the Part of the World; above all the Jews, Jobbers, Bishops, Sublimed Preachers, Directors, Governors, Ministers, &c. &c. &c. in *Academy*.

from M R. DIGBY.

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LETTER VIII.

FROM MR. DIGBY.

Sherburne, July 30.

I CONGRATULATE you, dear Sir, on the Return of the Golden Age, for sure this must be such, in which Money is showered down in such Abundance upon us. I hope this Overflowing will produce great and good Fruits, and bring back the figurative moral Golden Age to us. I have some Omens to induce me to believe it may; for when the Muses delight to be near a Court, when I find you frequently with a first Minister, I can't but expect from such an Intimacy an Encouragement and Revival of the polite Arts: I know, you desire to bring them into Honour, above the golden Image which is set up and worshipped, and, if you cannot effect it, adieu to all such Hopes. You seem to intimate in yours another Face of Things from this Inundation of Wealth, as if Beauty, Wit, and Valour would no more engage our Passions in the pleasurable Pursuit of them, tho' assisted by this Encrease: if so, and if Monsters only as various as those of *Nile* arise from this Abundance, who that has any Spleen about him will not haste to Town to laugh? What will become of the Play-house? who will go thither while there is such Entertainment in the Streets? I hope we shall neither want good Satire nor Comedy; if we do, the Age may well be thought barren of Genius's, for none has ever produced better Subjects.

Your, &c.

LET-

Colehill, Nov. 12, 1720.

I FIND in my Heart that I have a Taint of the corrupt Age we live in. I want the public Spirit so much admir'd in old *Rome*, of sacrificing every Thing that is dear to us to the Common-wealth. I even feel a more intimate Concern for my Friends who have suffered in the *South-Sea*, than for the Public, which is said to be undone by it. But, I hope, the Reason is, that I do not see so evidently the Ruin of the Public to be a Consequence of it, as I do the Loss of my Friends. I fear there are few besides yourself that will be persuaded by old *Hesiod*, that *half is more than the whole*. I know not whether I do not rejoice in your Sufferings^a; since they have shewed me your Mind is principled with such a Sentiment, I assure you I expect from it a Performance greater still than *Homer*. I have an extreme Joy from your communicating to me this Affection of your Mind;

Quid voveat dulci Nutricula majus alumno?

Believe me, dear Sir, no Equipage could shew you to my Eye in so much Splendor. I would not indulge this Fit of Philosophy so far as to be tedious to you, else I could prosecute it with Pleasure.

I long to see you, your Mother, and your Villa; till then I will say nothing of Lord *Bathurst's* Wood, which I saw on my Return hither. Soon after *Christmas* I design for *London*, where I shall miss Lady *Scudamore* very much, who intends to stay in the Country all Winter. I am angry with her, as I am like to suffer

^a See Note on v. 139. of the second Satire, ii. Book of Horace.

from M R. D I G B Y:

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suffer by this Resolution, and would fain blame her, but cannot find a Cause. The Man is cursed that has a longer Letter than this to write with a bed Pen, yet I can use it with Pleasure to send my Services to your good Mother, and to write myself,

Your, &c.

Vol. VIII.

D

L E T.

Sept. 1, 1722.

DOCTOR *Arbuthnot* is going to *Bath*, and will stay there a Fortnight or more; perhaps you would be comforted to have a Sight of him, whether you need him or not. I think him as good a Doctor as any Man for one that is ill, and a better Doctor for one that is well. He would do admirably for Mrs. *Mary Digby*: she needed only to follow his Hints, to be in eternal Business and Amusement of Mind, and even as active as she could desire. But indeed I fear she would out-walk him; for (as Dean *Swift* observed to me the very first Time I saw the Doctor) "He is a Man that can do every Thing but walk." His Brother, who is lately come into *England*, goes also to the *Bath*; and is a more extraordinary Man than he, worth your going thither on Purpose to know him. The Spirit of Philanthropy, so long dead to our World, is revived in him: he is a Philosopher all of Fire; so warmly, nay so wildly in the right, that he forces all others about him to be so too, and draws them into his own Vortex. He is a Star that looks as if it were all Fire, but is all Benignity, all gentle and beneficial Influence. If there be other Men in the World that would serve a Friend, yet he is the only one, I believe, that could make even an Enemy serve a Friend.

As all human Life is checquer'd and mixed with Acquisitions and Losses (tho' the latter are more certain and irremediable, than the former lasting or satisfactory) so at the Time I have gained the Acquaintance of one worthy Man I have lost another, a very easy, humane, and gentlemanly Neighbour, Mr. *Stonor*. 'Tis certain the Loss of one of this Character puts us naturally upon setting a greater Value on the few that are left, tho' the Degree of our Esteem may be different. Nothing, says *Seneca*, is so

from M R. DIGBY.

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so melancholy a Circumstance in human Life, or so soon reconciles us to the Thought of our own Death, as the Reflection and Prospect of one Friend after another dropping round us ! Who would stand alone, the sole remaining Ruin, the last tottering Column of all the Fabric of Friendship once so large, seemingly so strong, and yet so suddenly sunk and buried ?

I am, &c.

D 2

L E T.

LETTER XI.

I HAVE Belief enough in the Goodness of your whole Family, to think you will all be pleased that I am arrived in Safety at *Twickenham*; tho' it is a Sort of Earnest that you will be troubled again with me, at *Sherburne*, or *Colehill*; for however I may like one of your Places, it may be in that as in liking one of your Family; when one sees the rest, one likes them all. Pray make my Services acceptable to them: I wish them all the Happiness they may want, and the Continuance of all the Happiness they have; and I take the latter to comprize a great deal more than the former. I must separate Lady *Scudamore* from you, as, I fear, she will do herself before this Letter reaches you: so I wish her a good Journey, and I hope one Day to try if she lives as well as you do: though I much question if she can live as quietly: I suspect the Bells will be ringing at her Arrival, and on her own and Miss *Scudamore's* Birth-Days, and that all the Clergy in the Country come to pay Respects; both the Clergy and the Bells expecting from her, and from the young Lady, further Business and further Employment. Besides all this, there dwells on the one Side of her the Lady *Conningsby*, and on the other Mr. *W**. Yet I shall, when the Days and the Years come about, adventure upon all this for her Sake.

I beg my Lord *Digby* to think me a better Man than to content myself with thanking him in the common Way. I am in as sincere a Sense of the Word, his Servant, as you are his Son, or he your Father.

I must in my Turn, insist upon hearing how my last Fellow Travellers got home from *Clarendon*, and
 desire

from M R. D I G B Y.

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desire Mr. *Philips* to remember me in his Cyder, and to tell Mr. *W**** that I am dead and buried.

I wish the young Ladies, whom I almost robb'd of their good Name, a better Name in Return (even that very Name to each of them, which they shall like best, for the Sake of the Man that bears it.)

Your, &c.

D 3

L E T-

1722.

YOUR making a Sort of Apology for your not writing, is a very genteel Reproof to me. I know I was to blame, but I know I did not intend to be so, and (what is the happiest Knowledge in the World) I know you will forgive me; for sure nothing is more satisfactory than to be certain of such a Friend as will overlook one's Failings, since every such Instance is a Conviction of his Kindness.

If I am all my Life to dwell in Intentions, and never rise to Actions, I have but too much Need of that gentle Disposition which I experience in you. But I hope better Things of myself, and fully purpose to make you a Visit this Summer at *Sherburne*. I'm told you are all upon Removal very speedily, and that Mrs. *Mary Digby* talks in a Letter to Lady *Scudamore*, of seeing my Lord *Bathurst's* Wood in her Way. How much I wish to be her Guide thro' that enchanted Forest, is not to be exprest: I look upon myself as the Magician appropriated to the Place, without whom no Mortal can penetrate into the Recesses of those sacred Shades. I could pass whole Days, in only describing to her the future, and as yet visionary Beauties, that are to rise in those Scenes: the Palace that is to be built, the Pavilions that are to glitter, the Colonades that are to adorn them: nay more, the meeting of the *Thames* and the *Severn*, which (when the noble Owner has finer Dreams than ordinary) are to be led into each other's Embraces thro' secret Caverns of not above twelve or fifteen Miles, till they rise and celebrate their Marriage in the midst of an immense Amphitheatre which is to be the Admiration of Posterity, a hundred Years hence. But till the destin'd Time shall arrive that is to manifest these Wonders, Mrs. *Digby* must content herself with seeing what is at present no more than the finest Wood in *England*.

The

The Objects that attract this Part of the World, are of a quite different Nature. Women of Quality are all turned Followers of the Camp in *Hyde-Park* this Year, whither all the Town resort to magnificent Entertainments given by the Officers, &c. The *Scythian* Ladies that dwell in the Waggon of War, were not more closely attached to the Luggage. The Matrons, like those of *Sparta*, attend their Sons to the Fields, to be the Witnesses of their glorious Deeds; and the Maidens, with all their Charms display'd, provoke the Spirit of the Soldiers; Tea and Coffee supply the Place of *Lacedemonian* Black Broth. This Camp seems crowned with perpetual Victory, for every Sun that rises in the Thunder of Cannon, sets in the Music of Violins. Nothing is yet wanting but the constant Presence of the Princess, to represent the *Mater Exercitus*.

At *Twickenham* the World goes otherwise. There are certain old People who take up all my Time, and will hardly allow me to keep any other Company. They were introduced here by a Man of their own Sort, who has made me perfectly rude to all Contemporaries, and won't so much as suffer me to look upon them. The Person I complain of is the Bishop of *Rocheſter*. Yet he allows me (from something he has heard of your Character and that of your Family, as if you were of the old Sect of Moralists) to write three or four Sides of Paper to you, and to tell you (what these Sort of People never tell but with Truth and religious Sincerity) that I am, and ever will be,

Your, &c.

LETTER XIII.

THE same Reason that hinder'd your writing, hinder'd mine, the pleasing Expectation to see you in Town. Indeed since the willing Confinement I have lain under here with my Mother (whom it is natural and reasonable I should rejoice with, as well as grieve) I could the better bear your Absence from *London*, for I could hardly have seen you there; and it would not have been quite reasonable to have drawn you to a sick Room hither from the first Embraces of your Friends. My Mother is now (I thank God) wonderfully recover'd, tho' not so much as yet to venture out of her Chamber, but enough to enjoy a few particular Friends, when they have the Good-nature to look upon her. I may recommend to you the Room we sit in, upon one (and that a favourite) Account, that it is the very warmest in the House; we and our Fires will equally smile upon your Face. There is a *Persian* Proverb that says (I think very prettily) "The Conversation of a Friend brightens the Eyes." This I take to be a Splendor still more agreeable than the Fires you so delightfully describe.

That you may long enjoy your own Fire-side in the metaphorical Sense, that is, all those of your Family who make it pleasing to sit and spend whole wintry Months together (a far more rational Delight, and better felt by an honest Heart, than all the glaring Entertainments, numerous Lights, and false Splendors, of an Assembly of empty Heads, aking Hearts, and false Faces.) This is my sincere Wish to you and yours.

You say you propose much Pleasure in seeing some new Faces about Town of my Acquaintance. I guess you mean Mrs. *Howard's* and Mrs. *Blount's*. And I assure you, you ought to take as much Pleasure in their Hearts, if they are what they sometimes express with Regard to you. Believe me, dear Sir, to you all, a very faithful Servant.

L E T-

from M R. DIGBY.

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LETTER XIV.

FROM MR. DIGBY.

Sherburne, Aug. 14, 1723.

I CAN'T return from so agreeable an Entertainment as yours in the Country, without acknowledging it. I thank you heartily for the new agreeable Idea of Life you there gave me; it will remain long with me, for it is very strongly impressed upon my Imagination. I repeat the Memory of it often, and shall value that Faculty of the Mind now more than ever, for the Power it gives me of being entertained, in your Villa, when absent from it. As you are possessed of all the Pleasures of the Country, and, as I think, of a right Mind, what can I wish you but Health to enjoy them? This I so heartily do, that I should be even glad to hear your good old Mother might lose all her present Pleasures in her unwearied Care of you, by your better Health convincing them it is unnecessary.

I am troubled, and shall be so, till I hear you have received this Letter: for you gave me the greatest Pleasure imaginable in yours, and I am impatient to acknowledge it. If I any Ways deserve that friendly Warmth and Affection with which you write, it is, that I have a Heart full of Love and Esteem for you: so truly, that I should lose the greatest Pleasure of my Life if I lost your good Opinion: It rejoices me very much to be reckoned by you in the Class of honest Men: for tho' I am not troubled over much about the Opinion most may have of me, yet, I own, it would grieve me not to be thought well of, by you and some few others. I will not doubt my own Strength, yet I have this further Security to maintain my Integrity, that I cannot part with that, without forfeiting your Esteem with it.

Perpetual Disorder and ill Health have for some Years so disguised me, that I sometimes fear I do not

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to

to my best Friends enough appear what I really am. Sickness is a great Oppressor; it does great Injury to a zealous Heart, stifling its Warmth, and not suffering it to break out into Action. But, I hope, I shall not make this Complaint much longer. I have other Hopes that please me too, tho' not so well grounded; these are, that you may yet make a Journey westward with Lord *athurst*; but of the Probability of this I do not venture to reason, because I would not part with the Pleasure of that Belief. It grieves me to think how far I am removed from you, and from that excellent Lord, whom I love! Indeed I remember him, as one that has made Sickness easy to me, by bearing with my Infirmities in the same Manner that you have always done. I often too consider him in other Lights that make him valuable to me. With him, I know not by what Connection, you never fail to come into my Mind, as if you were inseparable. I have, as you guess, many philosophical Reveries in the Shades of Sir *Walter Raleigh*, of which you are a great Part. You generally enter there with me, and like a good Genius, applaud and strengthen all my Sentiments that have Honour in them. This good Office which you have often done me unknowingly, I must acknowledge now, that my own Breast may not reproach me with Ingratitude, and disquiet me when I would muse again in that solemn Scene. I have not Room now left to ask you many Questions I intended about the *Odyssey*. I beg I may know how far you have carried *Ulysses* on his Journey, and how you have been entertained with him on the Way? I desire I may hear of your Health, of Mrs. *Pope's*, and of every Thing else that belongs to you.

How thrive your Garden Plants? how look the Trees? how spring the Brocoli and the Fenocchio? hard Names to spell! how did the Poppies bloom? and how is the great Room approved? what Parties have you had of Pleasure? what in the Grotto?

what

from M R. DIGBY.

59

what upon the *Thames*? I would know how all your Hours pass, all you say, and all you do; of which I should question you yet further, but my Paper is full and spares you. My Brother *Ned* is wholly yours, so my Father desires to be, and every Soul here whose Name is *Digby*. My Sister will be yours in particular. What can I add more?

I am, &c.

L E T.

October 10.

I WAS upon the Point of taking a much greater Journey than to *Bermudas*; even to that undiscover'd Country, from whose Bourn No Traveller returns!

A Fever carried me on the high Gallop towards it for 6 or 7 Days—But here you have me now, and that is all I shall say of it: since which Time, an impertinent Lameness kept me at Home twice as long; as if Fate should say (after the other dangerous Illness) “You shall neither go into the other World, nor any where you like in this.” Else who knows but I had been at *Hom-lacy*?

I conspire in your Sentiments, emulate your Pleasures, wish for your Company. You are all of one Heart and one Soul, as was said of the primitive Christians: 'tis like the Kingdom of the Just upon Earth; not a wicked Wretch to interrupt you, but a Set of try'd, experienced Friends, and Fellow Comforters, who have seen evil Men and evil Days, and have by a superior Rectitude of Heart set yourselves above them, and reap your Reward. Why will you ever, of your own Accord, end such a millenary Year in *London*? transmigrate (if I may so call it) into other Creatures, in that Scene of Folly Militant when you may reign for ever at *Hom-lacy* in Sense and Reason triumphant? I appeal to a third Lady in your Family, whom I take to be the most innocent, and the least warp'd by idle Fashion and Custom of you all; I appeal to her, if you are not every Soul of you better People, better Companions, and happier, where you are? I desire her Opinion under her Hand in your next Letter, I mean Miss *Scudamore's*^a. I am confident if she would or durst

^a Afterwards *Dutchess of Beaufort*, at this Time very young. P.

durst speak her Sense, and employ that Reasoning which God has given her, to infuse more Thoughtfulness into you all; those Arguments could not fail to put you to the Blush, and keep you out of Town, like People sensible of your own Felicities. I am not without Hopes, if she can detain a Parliament Man and a Lady of Quality from the World one Winter, that I may come upon you with such irresistible Arguments next Year, as may carry you all with me to *Bermudas*^b, the Seat of all earthly Happiness and the new *Jerusalem* of the Righteous.

Don't talk of the Decay of the Year, the Season is good where the People are so: 'tis the best Time in the Year for a Painter; there is more Variety of Colours in the Leaves, the Prospects begin to open, through the thinner Woods, over the Valleys; and through the high Canopies of Trees to the higher Arch of Heaven: the Dews of the Morning impearl every Thorn, and scatter Diamonds on the verdant Mantle of the Earth; the Frosts are fresh and wholesome: what would you have? the Moon shines too, tho' not for Lovers these cold Nights, but for Astronomers.

Have you not reflecting Telescopes^c, whereby you may innocently magnify her Spots and Blemishes? Content yourselves with them, and do not come to a Place where your own Eyes become reflecting Telescopes, and where those of all others are equally such upon their Neighbours. Stay you at least (for what I've said before relates only to the Ladies: don't imagine I'll write about any Eyes but theirs) stay, I say, from that idle, busy-looking Sanhedrin, where
Wisdom

^b *About this Time the Rev. Dean Berkley conceived his Project of erecting a Settlement in Bermudas for the Propagation of the Christian Faith, and Introduction of Sciences into America.* P.

^c *These Instruments were just then brought to Perfection.* P.

Wisdom or no Wisdom is the eternal Debate, not (as it lately was in *Ireland*) an accidental one.

If, after all, you will despise good Advice, and resolve to come to *London*, here you will find me, doing just the Things I should not, living where I should not, and as wordly, as idle, in a Word as much an *Anti-Bermudanist* as any Body. Dear Sir, make the Ladies know I am their Servant, you know I am

Yours, &c.

LET.

from M R. D I G B Y.

63

L E T T E R X V I.

Aug 12.

I HAVE been above a Month strolling about in *Buckinghamshire* and *Oxfordshire*, from Garden to Garden, but still returning to Lord *Cobham's* with fresh Satisfaction. I should be sorry to see my Lady *Scudamore's*, till it has had the full Advantage of Lord *B***'s* Improvements; and then I will expect something like the Waters of *Risbins*, and the Woods of *Oakley* together, which (without Flattery) would be at least as good as any Thing in our World: For as to the hanging Gardens of *Babylon*, the Paradise of *Cyrus*, and the Sharawaggi's of *China*, I have little or no Ideas of them, but I dare say, Lord *B**** has, because they were certainly both very great, and very wild. I hope Mrs. *Mary Digby* is quite tired of his Lordship's *Extravagante Bergerie*: and that she is just now sitting, or rather reclining on a Bank, fatigued with over-much Dancing and Singing at his unwearied Request and Instigation. I know your Love of Ease so well, that you might be in Danger of being too quiet to enjoy Quiet, and too philosophical to be a Philosopher; were it not for the Ferment Lord *B**** will put you into. One of his Lordship's Maxims is, that a total Abstinence from Intemperance or Business, is no more Philosophy, than a total Consopition of the Senses is Repose; one must feel enough of its Contrary to have a Relish for either. But, after all, let your Temper work, and be as sedate and contemplative as you will, I'll engage you shall be fit for any of us, when you come to Town in the Winter. Folly will laugh you into all the Customs of the Company here; nothing will be able to prevent your Conversion to her, but Indisposition, which, I hope, will be far from you. I am telling the worst that can come of you; for as to Vice, you are safe; but Folly is many an honest
honest

honest Man's, nay every good-humour'd Man's Lot: nay it is the Seasoning of Life; and Food's (in one Sense) are the Salt of the Earth: a little is excellent, tho' indeed a whole Mouthful is justly call'd the Devil.

So much for your Diversions next Winter, and for mine. I envy you much more at present, than I shall then; for if there be on Earth an Image of Paradise, it is such perfect Union and Society as you all possess. I would have my innocent Envy and wishes of your State known to you all; which is far better than making you Compliments, for it is inward Approbation and Esteem. My Lord *Digby* has in me a sincere Servant, or would have, were there any Occasion for me to manifest it.

L E T T E R XVII.

Decemb. 28, 1724.

IT is now the Season to wish the good End of one Year, and a happy Beginning of another: but both these you know how to make yourself, by only continuing such a Life as you have been long accustomed to lead. As for good Works, they are Things I dare not name, either to those that do them, or to those that do them not: the first are too modest, and the latter too selfish, to bear the mention of what are become either too old-fashion'd, or too private, to constitute any Part of the Vanity or Reputation of the present Age. However, it were to be wish'd People would now and then look upon good Works as they do upon old Wardrobes, merely in Case any of them should by Chance come into Fashion again; as antient Fardingales revive in modern hoop'd Petticoats, (which may be properly compared to Charities, as they cover a Multitude of Sins.)

They tell me that at *Colebill* certain antiquated Charities and obsolete Devotions are yet subsisting: that a Thing called Christian Chearfulness (not incompatible with Christmas-Pyes and Plum-Broth) whereof frequent is the mention in old Sermons and Almanacks, is really kept alive and in Practice: that feeding the Hungry, and giving Alms to the Poor, do yet make a Part of good House-keeping, in a Latitude not more remote from *London* than four-score Miles: and lastly, that Prayers and Roast-beef actually make some People as happy as a Whore and a Bottle. But here in Town, I assure you, Men, Women, and Children have done with these Things. Charity not only begins, but ends, at Home. Instead of the four cardinal Virtues, now reign four courtly ones: we have Cunning for Prudence, Rapine for Justice, Time-serving for Fortitude, and Luxury for Temperance. Whatever you may fancy
where

where you live in a State of Ignorance, and see nothing but Quiet, Religion, and Good-humour, the Case is just as I tell you where People understand the World, and know how to live with Credit and Glory.

I wish that Heaven would open the Eyes of Men, and make them sensible which of these is right; whether, upon a due Conviction, we are to quit Faction, and Gaming, and high Feeding, and all Manner of Luxury, and to take to your Country Way? or you to leave Prayers, and Almsgiving, and Reading, and Exercise, and come into our Measures? I wish (I say) that this Matter was as clear to all Men as it is to

Your affectionate, &c.

LET.

LETTER XVIII.

DEAR SIR,

April 21, 1726.

I HAVE a great Inclination to write to you, tho' I cannot by writing, any more than I could by Words, express what Part I bear in your Sufferings. Nature and Esteem in you are join'd to aggravate your Affliction: the latter I have in a Degree equal even to yours, and a Tye of Friendship approaches near to the Tendernefs of Nature: yet, God knows, no Man living is less fit to comfort you, as no Man is more deeply sensible than myself of the Greatness of the Loss. That very Virtue which secures his present State from all the Sorrows incident to ours, does but aggrandize our Sensation of its being removed from our Sight, from our Affection, and from our Imitation; for the Friendship and Society of good Men does not only make us happier, but it makes us better. Their Death does but complete their Felicity before our own, who probably are not yet arrived to that Degree of Perfection which merits an immediate Reward. That your dear Brother and my dear Friend was so, I take his very Removal to be a Proof; Providence would certainly lend virtuous Men to a World that so much wants them, as long as in its Justice to them it could spare them to us. May my Soul be with those who have meant well, and have acted well to that Meaning! and, I doubt not, if this Prayer be granted, I shall be with him. Let us preserve his Memory in the Way he would best like, by recollecting what his Behaviour would have been, in every Incident of our Lives to come, and doing in each just as we think he would have done; so we shall have him always before our Eyes, and in
our

Mr. Digby died in the Year 1726, and is buried in the Church of Sherburne in Dorsetshire, with an Epitaph written by the Author. P.

our Minds, and (what is more) in our Lives and Manners. I hope when we shall meet him next, we shall be more of a Piece with him, and consequently not to be overcome separated from him. I will add but one Word that relates to what remains of yourself and me, since so valuable a Part of us is gone ; it is to beg you to accept, as yours by Inheritance, of the Vacancy he has left in a Heart, which (while he could fill it with such Hopes, Wishes, and Affections for him as suited a mortal Creature) was truly and warmly his ; and shall (I assure you in the Sincerity of Sorrow for my own Loss) be faithfully at your Service while I continue to love his Memory, that is, while I continue to be myself.

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L E T T E R S

TO AND FROM

DR. ATTERBURY,
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER,

From the Year 1716 to 1723.

L E T T E R I.

THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER TO
MR. POPE.

Decemb. 1716.

I RETURN your ^a Preface, which I have read twice with Pleasure. The Modesty and good Sense there is in it, must please every one that reads it: And since there is nothing that can offend, I see not why you should balance a Moment about printing it—always provided, that there is nothing said there which you may have Occasion to unsay hereafter: of which

^a *The general Preface to Mr. Pope's Poems, first printed 1717, the Year after the Date of this Letter. P.*

which you yourself are the best and the only Judge. This is my sincere Opinion, which I give, because you ask it: and which I would not give, tho' asked, but to a Man I value as much as I do you; being sensible how improper it is, on many Accounts, for me to interpose in Things of this Nature; which I never understood well, and now understand somewhat less than ever I did. But I can deny you nothing; especially since you have had the Goodness often, and patiently, to hear what I have said against Rhyme; and in Behalf of blank Verse; with little Discretion perhaps, but, I am sure, without the least Prejudice: being myself equally incapable of writing well in either of those Ways, and leaning therefore to neither Side of the Question, but as the Appearance of Reason inclines me. Forgive me this Error, if it be one, an Error of above thirty Years standing, and which therefore I shall be very loth to part with. In other Matters which relate to polite Writing, I shall seldom differ from you: or, if I do, shall, I hope, have the Prudence to conceal my Opinion. I am, as much as I ought to be, that is, as much as any Man can be,

Your, &c.

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from D R. ATTERBURY. 71

LETTER II.

THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER TO
MR. POPE.

Feb. 18, 1717.

I HOPED to find you last Night at Lord *Bathurst's*, and came but a few Minutes after you left him. I brought *Gorboduc*^a with me; and Dr. *Arbutnot* telling me he should see you, I deposited the Book in his Hands, out of which, I think, my Lord *Bathurst* got it before we parted, and from him therefore you are to claim it. If *Gorboduc* should still miss his Way to you, others are to answer for it; I have delivered up my Trust. I am not sorry your^a *Alcander* is burnt; had I known your Intentions, I would have interceded for the first Page, and put it, with your Leave, among my Curiosities. In Truth, it is the only Instance of the Kind I ever met with, from a Person good for any Thing else, nay for every Thing else to which he is pleas'd to turn himself.

Depend upon it, I shall see you with great Pleasure at *Bromley*; and there is no Request you can make to me, that I shall not most readily comply with. I wish you Health and Happiness of all Sorts, and would be glad to be instrumental in any Degree towards helping you to the least Share of either. I am always, every where, most affectionately and faithfully

Your, &c.

^a *A Tragedy written in the Reign of Edward the sixth (and much the best Performance of that Age) by Sackvil, afterwards Earl of Dorset, and Lord Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth. It was then very scarce, but lately reprinted by R. Dodsley in Pall-mall. P.*

^b *An Heroic Poem written at 15 Years old. P.*

LET-

LETTER III.

THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER TO
MR. POPE.*Bromley, Nov. 8, 1717.*

I HAVE nothing to say to you on that melancholy Subject, with an Account of which the printed Papers have furnish'd me, but what you have already said to yourself.

When you have paid the Debt of Tenderneſs you owe to the Memory of a Father, I doubt not but you will turn your Thoughts towards improving that Accident to your own Eaſe and Happineſs. You have it now in your Power, to purſue that Method of thinking and living which you like beſt. Give me Leave, if I am not a little too early in my Applications of this Kind, to congratulate you upon it; and to aſſure you that there is no Man living who wiſhes you better, or would be more pleas'd to contribute any Ways to your Satisfaction or Service.

I return you your *Milton*, which, upon Collation, I find to be reviſed, and augmented, in ſeveral Places, as the Title-Page of my third Edition pretends it to be. When I ſee you next, I will ſhew you the ſeveral Paſſages altered, and added by the Author, beſide what you mentioned to me.

I proteſt to you, this laſt Peruſal of him has given me ſuch new Degrees, I will not ſay of Pleaſure, but of Admiration and Aſtoniſhment, that I look upon the Sublimity of *Homer*, and the Maſteſty of *Virgil* with ſomewhat leſs Reverence than I uſed to do. I challenge you, with all your Partiality, to ſhew me in the firſt of theſe any Thing equal to the Allegory of Sin and Death, either as to the Greatneſs and Juſtneſs of the Invention, or the Height and Beauty of the Colouring. What I look'd upon as a Rant of *Barrow's*, I now begin to think a ſerious Truth, and could almoſt venture to ſet my Hand to it,

Hac

*Hæc quicumque legit, tantum cecinisse putabit
Mæoniden Ranas, Virgilium Culices.*

But more of this when we meet. When I left the Town the Duke of *Buckingham* continued so ill that he received no Messages; oblige me so far as to let me know how he does; at the same Time I shall know how you do, and that will be a double Satisfaction to

Your, &c.

Vol. VIII.

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Hæc

MY LORD,

Nov. 20, 1717.

I AM truly obliged by your kind Condolance on my Father's Death, and the Desire you express that I should improve this Incident to my Advantage. I know your Lordship's Friendship to me is so extensive, that you include in that Wish both my spiritual and my temporal Advantage; and it is what I owe to that Friendship, to open my Mind unreservedly to you on this Head. It is true, I have lost a Parent for whom no Gains I could make would be any Equivalent. But that was not my only Tye: I thank God another still remains (and long may it remain) of the same tender Nature: *Genitrix est mihi*—and excuse me if I say with *Euryalus*,

nequeam lacrymas perferri parentis.

A rigid Divine may call it a carnal Tye, but sure it is a virtuous one: at least I am more certain that it is a Duty of Nature to preserve a good Parent's Life and Happiness, than I am of any speculative Point whatever.

*Ignaram hujus quodcunque pericli
Hanc ego, nunc, linguam?*

For she, my Lord, would think this Separation more grievous than any other, and I, for my Part, know as little as poor *Euryalus* did, of the Success of such an Adventure (for an Adventure it is, and no small one, in spite of the most positive Divinity.) Whether the Change would be to my spiritual Advantage, God only knows: this I know, that I mean as well in the Religion I now profess, as I can possibly ever do
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in another. Can a Man who thinks so, justify a Change, even if he thought both equally good? To such an one, the Part of *Joining* with any one Body of Christians might perhaps be easy, but I think it would not be so, to *Renounce* the other.

Your Lordship has formerly advis'd me to read the best Controversies between the Churches. Shall I tell you a Secret? I did so at fourteen Years old! (for I loved Reading, and my Father had no other Books;) there was a Collection of all that had been written on both Sides in the Reign of King *James* the second: I warm'd my Head with them, and the Consequence was, that I found myself a Papist and a Protestant by Turns, according to the last Book I read^a. I am afraid most Seekers are in the same Case, and when they stop, they are not so properly converted, as outwitted. You see how little Glory you would gain by my Conversion. And after all, I verily believe your Lordship and I are both of the same Religion, if we were thoroughly understood by one another; and that all honest and reasonable Christians would be so, if they did but talk enough together every Day; and had nothing to do together, but to serve God, and live in Peace with their Neighbour.

As to the *temporal* Side of the Question, I can have no Dispute with you; it is certain, all the beneficial Circumstances of Life, and all the shining ones, lye on the Part you would invite me to. But if I could bring myself to fancy, what I think you do but fancy, that I have any Talents for *active* Life, I want Health for it; and besides it is a real Truth, I have less Inclination (if possible) than Ability. Contemplative Life is not only my Scene, but it is my Habit too. I begun my Life where most People end theirs,

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^a This is an admirable Picture of every Reader busied in religious Controversy, without possessing the Principles on which a right Judgment of the Points in Question is to be regulated.

with a Dis-relish of all that the World calls Ambition: I don't know why 'tis call'd so, for to me it always seem'd to be rather *slooping* than *climbing*. I'll tell you my politic and religious Sentiments in a few Words. In my Politics, I think no further than how to preserve the Peace of my Life, in any Government under which I live; nor in my Religion, than to preserve the Peace of my Conscience in any Church with which I communicate. I hope all Churches and all Governments are so far of God, as they are rightly understood, and rightly administred: and where they are, or may be wrong, I leave it to God alone to mend or reform them; which whenever he does, it must be by greater Instruments than I am. I am not a Papist, for I renounce the temporal Invasions of the papal Power, and detest their arrogated Authority over Princes and States. I am a Catholic in the strictest Sense of the Word. If I was born under an absolute Prince, I would be a quiet Subject; but I thank God I was not. I have a due Sense of the Excellence of the *British* Constitution. In a Word, the Things I have always wished to see are not a *Roman* Catholic, or a *French* Catholic, or a *Spanish* Catholic, but a true Catholic: and not a King of Whigs, or a King of Tories, but a King of *England*. Which God of his Mercy grant his present Majesty may be, and all future Majesties. You see, my Lord, I end like a Preacher: this is *Sermo ad Clerum*, not *ad Populum*. Believe me, with infinite Obligation and sincere Thanks, ever

Your, &c.

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from D. R. ATTERBURY. 79

LETTER V.

Sept. 23, 1720.

I HOPE you have some Time ago receiv'd the Sulphur, and the two Volumes of Mr. Gay, as Instances (how small ones soever) that I wish you both Health and Diversion. What I now send for your Perusal, I shall say nothing of; not to forestall by a single Word what you promis'd to say upon that Subject. Your Lordship may criticise from *Virgil* to these Tales; as *Solomon* wrote of every Thing from the Cedar to the Hyssop. I have some Cause, since I last waited on you at *Bromley*, to look upon you as a Prophet in that Retreat, from whom Oracles are to be had, were Mankind wise enough to go thither to consult you: the Fate of the *South-Sea* Scheme has, much sooner than I expected, verify'd what you told me. Most People thought the Time would come, but no Man prepared for it; no Man consider'd it would come like a Thief in the Night; exactly as it happens in the Case of our Death. Methinks God has punish'd the Avaricious, as he often punishes Sinners, in their own Way, in the very Sin itself: the Thirst of Gain was their Crime, that Thirst continued became their Punishment and Ruin. As for the few who have the good Fortune, to remain, with half of what they imagined they had (among whom is your humble Servant) I would have them sensible of their Felicity, and convinced of the Truth of old *Hesiod's* Maxim, who, after half of his Estate was swallowed by the *Directors* of those Days, resolv'd, that half to be more than the whole.

Does not the Fate of these People put you in Mind of two Passages, one in *Job*, the other from the Psalmist?

Men shall groan out of the CITY, and hiss them out of their PLACE.

They have dreamed out their Dream, and awaking have found nothing in their Hands.

Indeed the universal Poverty, which is the Consequence of universal Avarice, and which will fall hardest upon the guiltless and industrious Part of Mankind, is truly lamentable. The universal Deluge of the *South Sea*, contrary to the old Deluge, has drowned all except a few *Unrighteous Men*: but it is some Comfort to me that I am not one of them, even tho' I were to survive and rule the World by it. I am much pleased with a Thought of Dr. *Arbutnot's*; he says the Government and *South-Sea Company* have only lock'd up the Money of the People, upon Conviction of their Lunacy (as is usual in the Case of Lunatics) and intend to restore them as much as may be fit for such People, as fast as they shall see them return to their Senses.

The latter Part of your Letter does me so much Honour, and shews me so much Kindness, that I must both be proud and pleas'd, in a great Degree; but I assure you, my Lord, much more the last than the first. For I certainly know, and feel, from my own Heart which truly respects you, that there may be a Ground for your Partiality, one Way; but I find not the least Symptoms in my Head, of any Foundation for the other.

In a Word, the best Reason I know for my being pleas'd, is, that you continue your Favour toward me; the best I know for being proud, would be that you might cure me of it; for I have found you to be such a Physician, as does not only *repair*, but *improve*. I am, with the sincerest Esteem, and most grateful Acknowledgment,

Your, &c.

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LETTER VI.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

THE *Arabian Tales*, and Mr. Gay's Books, I receiv'd not till Monday Night, together with your Letter; for which I thank you. I have had a Fit of the Gout upon me ever since I returned hither from *Westminster* on *Saturday* Night last: it has found its Way into my Hands as well as Legs, so that I have been utterly incapable of Writing. This is the first Letter that I have ventur'd upon; which will be written, I fear, *vacillantibus literis*, as *Tully* says, *Tyro's* Letters were, after his Recovery from an Illness. What I said to you in mine about the Monument, was intended only to quicken, not to alarm you. It is not worth your while to know what I meant by it: but when I see you, you shall. I hope you may be at the Deanry, towards the end of *October*, by which Time, I think of settling there for the Winter. What do you think of some such short Inscription as this in *Latin*, which may, in a few Words, say all that is to be said of *Dryden*, and yet nothing more than he deserves?

IOHANNI DRYDENO,

CVI POESIS ANGLICANA

VIM SVAM AC VENERES DEBET;

ET SI QVA IN POSTERVM AVGEBITVR LAVDE,

EST ADHVC DEBITVRA:

HONORIS ERGO P. &C.

To shew you that I am as much in Earnest in the Affair, as you yourself, something I will send you too of this Kind in *English*. If your Design holds of fixing *Dryden's* Name only below, and his Busto above—may not Lines like these be grav'd just under the Name?

*This Sheffield rais'd, to Dryden's Ashes just,
Here fix'd his Name, and there his laurel'd Bust.
What else the Muse in Marble might express,
Is known already; Praise would make him less.*

Or thus—

*More needs not; where acknowledg'd Merits reign;
Praise is impertinent; and Censure vain.*

This you'll take as a Proof of my Zeal at least, tho' it be none of my Talent in Poetry. When you have read it over, I'll forgive you, if you should not once in your Life-time again think of it.

And now, Sir, for your *Arabian Tales*. Ill as I have been, almost ever since they came to Hand, I have read as much of them, as ever I shall read while I live. Indeed they do not please my Taste: they are writ with so romantic an Air, and, allowing for the Difference of eastern Manners, are yet, upon any Supposition that can be made, of so wild and absurd a Contrivance, (at least to my northern Understanding) that I have not only no Pleasure, but no Patience, in perusing them. They are to me like the odd Paintings on *Indian Screens*, which at first Glance may surprize and please a little: but, when you fix your Eye intently upon them, they appear so extravagant, disproportion'd, and monstrous, that they give a judicious Eye Pain, and make him seek for Relief from some other Object.

They may furnish the Mind with some new Images: but I think the Purchase is made at too great an Expence: for to read those two Volumes through, liking them as little as I do, would be a terrible Penance, and to read them with Pleasure would be dangerous on the other Side, because of the Infection. I will never believe, that you have any keen Relish of them, till I find you write worse than you do, which I dare say I never shall. Who that *Petit*

de

from DR. ATTERBURY. 51

de la Croise is, the pretended Author of them, I cannot tell: but observing how full they are in the Descriptions of Dress, Furniture, &c. I cannot help thinking them the Product of some Woman's Imagination:

E 5

Not the pretended Author, but the real Translator, of an Arabic MS. in the French King's Library. What he has given in ten small Volumes, is not more than the tenth Part of the Original. The Eastern People have been always famous for this Sort of Tales: in which much fine Morality is often conveyed; not indeed in a Story always representing real Life and Manners, but what the Eastern Superstitions have made pass for such amongst the People. Their great Genius for this Kind of Writing appears from what the Translator has here given us—But the Policy of some of the latter Princes of the East greatly hurt the Elegance and Use of the Composition, by setting all Men upon composing in this Way, to furnish Matter for their Coffee-houses and public Places of Resort; which were enjoined to entertain their Customers with a Rehearsal of these Works, in order to divert them from Politics, and Matters of State. The Collection in Question is so strange a Medley of Sense and Nonsense, that one would be tempted to think it the Compilation of some Coffee-man, who gathered indifferently from Good and Bad. The Contrivance he has invented of tying them together is so blunderingly conducted, that after such an Instance of the Want of Common Sense one can wonder at no Absurdity we find in them. The Tales are supposed to be told to one of the Kings of Persia of the Dynasty of the Sassanides, an ancient Race before Mahomet, and yet the Scene of some of them is laid in the Court of Harown Alraschid the 26th Chalif, and the 5th of the Race of the Abasides. These, where the Scene is so laid, are amongst the best; and it may be easily accounted for. Alraschid was one of the most magnificent of the Chalifs, and the greatest Encourager of Letters; so that it
was

nation; and, believe me, I would do any Thing but break with you, rather than be bound to read them over with Attention.

I am sorry that I was so true a Prophet in Respect of the *South Sea*, sorry, I mean, as far as your Loss is concerned: for in the general I ever was and still am of Opinion, that had that Project taken Root and flourish'd, it would by Degrees have overturn'd our Constitution. Three or four hundred Millions was such a Weight, that which soever Way it had leaned, must have borne down all before it—But of the Dead we must speak gently; and therefore, as Mr. *Dryden* says somewhere, *Peace be to its Manes!*

Let me add one Reflection, to make you easy in your Ill-luck. Had you got all that you have lost beyond what you ventur'd, consider that your superfluous Gains would have sprung from the Ruin of several Families that now want Necessaries! a Thought, under which a good and good-natur'd Man that grew rich by such Means, could not, I persuade myself, be perfectly easy. Adieu, and believe me, ever,

Your, &c.

was natural for Men of Genius in after Times, to do this Honour to his Memory.—But the Bishop talks of Petit de la Croise. M. Galland was the Translator of the Arabian Tales. The Name of the other is to the Collection called the Persian Tales, of which I have nothing to say.

L E T.

from DR. ATTERBURY. 83

LETTER VII.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

March 26, 1721.

YOU are not yourself gladder you are well than I am; especially since I can please myself with the Thought that when you had lost your Health elsewhere, you recovered it here. May these Lodgings never treat you worse, nor you at any Time have less Reason to be fond of them?

I thank you for the Sight of your ² Verses, and with the Freedom of an honest, tho' perhaps injudicious Friend, must tell you, that tho' I could like some of them, if they were any Body's else but yours, yet as they are yours and to be owned as such, I can scarce like any of them. Not but that the four first Lines are good, especially the second Couplet; and might, if followed by four others as good, give Reputation to a Writer of a less established Fame: but from you I expect something of a more perfect Kind, and which the oftener it is read, the more it will be admired. When you barely exceed other Writers, you fall much beneath yourself: 'tis your Misfortune now to write without a Rival, and to be tempted by that Means to be more careless, than you would otherwise be in your Composures.

Thus much I could not forbear saying, tho' I have a Motion of Consequence in the House of Lords To-day, and must prepare for it. I am even with you for your ill Paper; for I write upon worse, having no other at Hand. I wish you the Continuance of your Health most heartily; and am ever

Your, &c.

I have

² Epitaph on Mr. Harcourt. P.

I have sent Dr. *Arbuthnot* the *Latin* ^b MS. which I could not find when you left me; and I am so angry at the Writer for his Design, and his Manner of executing it, that I could hardly forbear sending him a Line of *Virgil* along with it. The chief Reasoner of that philosophic Farce is a *Gallo-Ligur*, as he is called—what that means in *English* or *French*, I can't say—but all he says, is in so loose and slippery and trickish a Way of Reasoning, that I could not forbear applying the Passage of *Virgil* to him,

Vane Ligur, frustra que animis elate superbis!

Nequicquam patrias tentasti lubricus artes—

To be serious, I hate to see a Book gravely written, and in all the Forms of Argumentation, which proves nothing, and which says nothing; and endeavours only to put us into a Way of distrusting our own Faculties, and doubting whether the Marks of Truth and Falshood can in any Case be distinguished from each other. Could that blessed Point be made out (as it is a Contradiction in Terms to say it can) we should then be in the most uncomfortable and wretched State in the World; and I would in that Case be glad to exchange my Reason, with a Dog for his Instinct, To-morrow.

* Written by Huetius, Bishop of Avranches. He was a mean Reasoner; as may be seen by a vast Collection of fanciful and extravagant Conjectures, which he called a Demonstration; mixed up with much Reading, which his Friends called Learning; and delivered (by the Allowance of all) in good Latin. This not being received for what he would give it, he composed a Treatise of the Weakness of the human Understanding: a poor System of Scepticism; indeed little other than an Abstract of Sextus Empiricus.

from D R. A T T E R B U R Y. 85

L E T T E R V I I I.

LORD CHANCELLOR HARCOURT TO
MR. POPE.

Decemb. 6, 1722.

I CANNOT but suspect myself of being very unreasonable in begging you once more to review the Inclosed. Your Friendship draws this Trouble on you. I may freely own to you, that my Tenderneſs makes me exceeding hard to be ſatisfied with any Thing which can be ſaid on ſuch an unhappy Subject. I cauſ'd the *Latin Epitaph* to be as often alter'd before I could approve it.

When once your Epitaph is ſet up, there can be no Alteration of it, it will remain a perpetual Monument of your Friendship, and, I aſſure myſelf, you will ſo ſettle it, that it ſhall be worthy of you. I doubt whether the Word, *deny'd*, in the third Line, will juſtly admit of that Conſtruction which it ought to bear (*viz.*) renounced, deſerted, &c. *deny'd* is capable, in my Opinion, of having an ill Senſe put upon it, as too great Uneaſineſs, or more Good-nature, than a wiſe Man ought to have. I very well remember you told me, you could ſcarce mend thoſe two Lines, and therefore I can ſcarce expect your Forgiveness for my deſiring you to reconfider them.

Harcourt ſtands dumb, and Pope is forced to ſpeak.

I can't perfectly, at leaſt without farther diſcourſing you, reconcile myſelf to the firſt Part of that Line; and, the Word *forc'd* (which was my own, and, I perſuade myſelf, for that Reason only ſubmitted to by you) ſeems to carry too doubtful a Conſtruction
for

for an Epitaph, which, as I apprehend, ought as easily to be understood as read. I shall acknowledge it as a very particular Favour, if at your best Leisure you will peruse the inclosed and vary it, if you think it capable of being amended, and let me see you any Morning next Week.

I am, &c.

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from DR. ATTERBURY. 87

LETTER IX.

THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER TO
MR. POPE.

Sept. 21, 1721.

I AM now confined to my Bed-chamber, and to the matted Room wherein I am writing, seldom venturing to be carried down even into the Parlour to Dinner, unless when Company to whom I cannot excuse myself, comes, which I am not ill pleas'd to find is now very seldom. This is my Case in the funny Part of the Year: what must I expect, when

inversum contrisflat Aquarius Annum?

“ if these Things be done in the green Tree, what shall be done in the dry?” Excuse me for employing a Sentence of Scripture on this Occasion; I apply it very seriously. One Thing relieves me a little under the ill Prospect I have of spending my Time at the Deanry this Winter; that I shall have the Opportunity of seeing you oftener; tho', I am afraid, you will have little Pleasure in seeing me there. So much for my ill State of Health, which I had not touch'd on, had not your friendly Letter been so full of it. One civil Thing, which you say in it, made me think you had been reading Mr. Waller; and possess'd of that Image at the End of his Copy, *à la malade*, had you not bestow'd it on one who has no Right to the least Part of the Character. If you have not read the Verses lately, I am sure you remember them because you forget nothing.

*With such a Grace you entertain,
And look with such Contempt on Pain, &c.*

I mention them not upon Account of that Couplet, but one that follows: which ends with the very
same

same Rhymes and Words (*appear and clear*) that the Couplet but one after that does—and therefore in my *Waller* there is a various Reading of the first of these Couplets; for there it runs thus,

*So Lightnings in a stormy Air,
Scorch more than when the Sky is fair.*

You will say that I am not very much in Pain, nor very busy, when I can relish these Amusements, and you will say true: for at present I am in both these Respects very easy.

I had not Strength enough to attend Mr. *Prior* to his Grave, else I would have done it, to have shew'd his Friends that I had forgot and forgiven what he wrote on me. He is buried, as he desired, at the Feet of *Spencer*, and I will take Care to make good in every Respect what I said to him, when living; particularly as to the Triplet he wrote for his own Epitaph; which while we were in good Terms, I promis'd him should never appear on his Tomb while I was Dean of *Westminster*.

I am pleas'd to find you have so much Pleasure, and (which is the Foundation of it) so much Health at Lord *Bathurst's*: may both continue till I see you! may my Lord have as much Satisfaction in building the House in the Wood, and using it when built, as you have in designing it! I cannot send a Wish after him that means him more Happiness, and yet, I am sure, I wish him as much as he wishes himself.

I am, &c.

L E T

from D. R. A T T E R B U R Y. 89

L E T T E R X.

FROM THE SAME.

Bromley, Oct. 15, 1721.

NOTWITHSTANDING I write this on Sunday-Even to acknowledge the Receipt of yours this Morning: yet, I foresee, it will not reach you till *Wednesday* Morning. And before Set of Sun that Day, I hope to reach my Winter Quarters at the Deanry. I hope, did I say? I recal that Word, for it implies Desire: and, God knows, that is far from being the Case. For I never part with this Place but with Regret, tho' I generally keep here what Mr. *Cowley* calls the worst of Company in the World, my own; and see either none beside, or what is worse than none, some of the *Arrii*, or *Sebosi* of my Neighbourhood: Characters, which *Tully* paints so well in one of his Epistles, and complains of the too civil, but impertinent Interruption they gave him in his Retirement. Since I have named those Gentlemen, and the Book is not far from me, I will turn to the Place, and by pointing it out to you, give you the Pleasure of perusing the Epistle, which is a very agreeable one, if my Memory does not fail me.

I am surprized to find that my Lord *Bathurst* and you are parted so soon; he has been sick, I know, of some late Transactions; but should that Sicknefs continue still in some Measure, I prophesy, it will be quite off by the Beginning of *November*: a Letter or two from his *London* Friends, and a Surfeit of Solitude, will soon make him change his Resolution and and his Quarters. I vow to you, I could live here with Pleasure all the Winter, and be contented with hearing no more News than the *London Journal*, or some such trifling Paper affords me, did not the Duty of my Place require, absolutely require my Attendance at *Westminster*; where, I hope, the Prophet will now and then remember he has a Bed and a Candlestick.

Candlestick. In short, I long to see you, and hope you will come, if not a Day, at least an Hour sooner to Town than you intended, in order to afford me that Satisfaction. I am now, I thank God! as well as ever I was in my Life, except that I can scarce walk at all without Crutches: And would willingly compound the Matter with the Gout, to be no better, could I hope to be no worse, but that is a vain Thought, I expect a new Attack long before *Christmas*. Let me see you therefore while I am in a Condition to relish you, before the Days (and the Nights) come, when I shall (and must) say, I have no Pleasure in them.

I will bring your small Volume of Pastorals along with me, that you may not be discouraged from lending me Books, when you find me so punctual in returning them. *Shakespeare* shall bear it Company, and be put into your Hands as clear and as fair as it came out of them, tho' you, I think, have been dabbling here and there with the Text: I have had more Reverence for the Writer and the Printer, and left every Thing standing just as I found it. However, I thank you for the Pleasure you have given me in putting me upon reading him once more before I die.

I believe I shall scarce repeat that Pleasure any more, having other Work to do, and other Things to think of, but none that will interfere with the Offices of Friendship, in the Exchange of which with you, Sir, I hope to live and die

Your, &c.

P. S. *Addison's* Works came to my Hands Yesterday. I cannot but think it a very odd Set of Incidents, that the Book should be dedicated by a ^a dead Man to a ^b dead Man; and even that the new ^c Patron

^a *Mr. Addison.*

^b *Mr. Craggs.*

^c *Lord Warwick.*

from D. R. ATTERBURY. 91

tron to whom *Tickell* chose to inscribe his Verses, should be dead also before they were published. Had I been in the Editor's Place I should have been a little apprehensive for myself, under a Thought that every one who had any Hand in that Work was to die before the Publication of it. You see, when I am conversing with you, I know not how to give over, till the very Bottom of the Paper admonishes me once more to bid you adieu!

L E T-

LETTER XI.

MY LORD,

Feb. 8, 1721-2.

IT is so long since I had the Pleasure of an Hour with your Lordship, that I should begin to think myself no longer *Amicus omnium horarum*, but for finding myself so in my constant Thoughts of you. In those I was with you many Hours this very Day, and had you (where I wish and hope one Day to see you really) in my Garden at *Twitnam*. When I went last to Town, and was on wing for the Deanry, I heard your Lordship was gone the Day before to *Bromley*, and there you continued till after my Return hither. I sincerely wish you whatever you wish yourself, and all you wish your Friends or Family. All I mean by this Word or two, is just to tell you so, till in Person I find you as I desire, that is, find you well: easy, resign'd, and happy you will make yourself, and (I believe) every Body that converses with you; if I may judge of your Power over other Men's Minds and Affections, by that which you will ever have over those of

Your, &c.

LET-

from D R. A T T E R B U R Y. 93

L E T T E R X I I.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

Feb. 26, 1721-2.

PERMIT me, dear Sir, to break into your Retirement, and to desire of you a complete Copy of those Verses on Mr. Addison^a; send me also your last Resolution, which shall punctually be observed in Relation to my giving out any Copy of it; for I am again solicited by another Lord, to whom I have given the same Answer as formerly. No small Piece of your Writing has been ever sought after so much: it has pleas'd every Man without Exception, to whom it has been read. Since you now, therefore, know where your real Strength lies, I hope you will not suffer that Talent to lie unemploy'd. For my Part, I should be so glad to see you finish something of that Kind, that I could be content to be a little sneer'd at in a Line or so, for the Sake of the Pleasure I should have in reading the rest. I have talk'd my Sense of this Matter to you once or twice, and now I put it under my Hand, that you may see it is my deliberate Opinion. What Weight that may have with you I cannot say: but it pleases me to have an Opportunity of shewing you how well I wish you, and how true a Friend I am to your Fame, which I desire may grow every Day, and in every Kind of Writing, to which you shall please to turn your Pen. Not but that I have some little Interest in the Proposal, as I shall be known to be acquainted with a Man that was capable of excelling in such different Manners, and did such Honour to his Country and Language; and yet was not displeas'd sometimes to read what was written by his humble Servant.

^a An imperfect Copy was got out, very much to the Author's Surprise, who never would give any. P.

L E T-

LETTER XIII.

March 14, 1721-2.

I WAS disappointed (much more than those who commonly use that Phrase on such Occasions) in missing you at the Deanry, where I lay solitary two Nights. Indeed I truly partake in any Degree of Concern that affects you, and I wish every Thing may succeed as you desire in your own Family, and in that which, I think, you no less account your own, and is no less your Family, the whole World: for I take you to be one of the true Friends of it, and to your Power its Protector. Tho' the Noise and daily Bustle for the Public be now over, I dare say, a good Man is still tendering its Welfare; as the Sun in the Winter when seeming to retire from the World, is preparing Benedictions and Warmth for a better Season. No Man wishes your Lordship more Quiet, more Tranquillity, than I, who know you should understand the Value of it: but I don't wish you a Jot less concern'd or less active than you are, in all sincere, and therefore warm, Desires of public Good.

I beg the Kindness (and 'tis for that chiefly I trouble you with this Letter) to favour me with Notice as soon as you return to *London*, that I may come and make you a proper Visit of a Day or two: for hitherto I have not been your Visitor, but your Lodger, and I accuse myself of it. I have now no earthly Thing to oblige my being in Town (a Point of no small Satisfaction to me) but the best Reason, the seeing a Friend. As long, my Lord, as you will let me call you so (and I dare say you will, till I forfeit what, I think, I never shall, my Veracity and Integrity) I shall esteem myself fortunate, in Spite of the *South-Sea*, Poetry, Popery and Poverty.

I can't

from D R. A T T E R B U R Y. 95

I can't tell you how sorry I am, you should be troubled a-new by any Sort of People. I heartily wish, *Quod superest, ut tibi vivas*—that you may teach me how to do the same: who without any real Impediment to acting and living rightly, do act and live as foolishly as if I were a great Man.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XIV.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

March 16, 1721-2.

AS a Visitant, a Lodger, a Friend (or under what other Denomination soever) you are always welcome to me; and will be more so, I hope, every Day that we live: for to tell you the Truth, I like you as I like myself, best when we have both of us least Business. It has been my Fate to be engaged in it much and often, by the Stations in which I was placed: but God, that knows my Heart, knows I never loved it: and am still less in Love with it than ever, as I find less Temptation to act with any Hope of Success. If I am good for any Thing, 'tis *in angulo cum libello*; and yet a good Part of my Time has been spent, and perhaps must be spent, far otherwise. For I will never, while I have Health, be wanting to my Duty in my Post, or in any Respect, how little soever I may like my Employment, and how hopeless soever I may be in the Discharge of it.

In the mean Time the judicious World is pleas'd to think that I delight in Work which I am obliged to undergo, and aim at Things which I from my Heart despise; let them think as they will, so I might be at Liberty to act as I will, and spend my Time in such a Manner as is most agreeable to me. I cannot say I do so now, for I am here without any Books, and if I had them could not use them to my Satisfaction, while my Mind is taken up in a more melancholy a Manner; and how long, or how little a while it may be so taken up God only knows, and to his Will I implicitly resign myself in every Thing.

I am, &c.

a In his Lady's last Sickness.

LET-

LETTER XV.

MY LORD,

March 19, 1721-2.

I AM extremely sensible of the repeated Favour of your kind Letters, and your Thoughts of me in Absence, even among Thoughts of much nearer Concern to yourself on the one Hand, and of much more Importance to the World on the other, which cannot but engage you at this Juncture. I am very certain of your good Will, and of the Warmth which is in you inseparable from it.

Your Remembrance of *Twittenham* is a fresh Instance of that Partiality. I hope the Advance of the fine Season will set you upon your Legs, enough to enable you to get into my Garden, where I shall carry you up a Mount, in a Point of View to shew you the Glory of my little Kingdom. If you approve it, I shall be in Danger to boast, like *Nebuchadnezzar*, of the Things I have made, and be turn'd to converse not with the Beasts of the Field, but with the Birds of the Grove, which I shall take to be no great Punishment. For indeed I heartily despise the Ways of the World, and most of the great ones of it.

Oh keep me innocent, make others great!

And you may judge how comfortably I am strengthened in this Opinion, when such as your Lordship bear Testimony to its Vanity and Emptiness. *Tinnit, inane est*, with the Picture of one ringing on the Globe with his Finger, is the best Thing I have the Luck to remember, in that great Poet *Quarles* (not that I forget the Devil at Bowls; which I know to be your Lordship's favourite Cut, as well as favourite Diversion.)

The Situation here is pleasant, and the View rural enough, to humour the most retired, and agree with the most contemplative. Good Air, solitary Groves, and sparing Diet, sufficient to make you fancy your-

self (what you are in Temperance, tho' elevated into a greater Figure by your Station) one of the Fathers of the Desert. Here you may think (to use an Author's Words, whom you so justly prefer to all his Followers, that you'll receive them kindly, tho' taken from his worst Work ^a)

*That in Elijah's Banquet you partake,
Or sit a Guest with Daniel, at his Pulse.*

I am sincerely free with you, as you desire I should, and approve of your not having your Coach here, for if you would see Lord C*.* or any Body else, I have another Chariot, besides that little one you laugh'd at when you compar'd me to *Homer* in a Nut-shell. But if you would be entirely private, no Body shall know any Thing of the Matter. Believe me (my Lord) no Man is with more perfect Acquiescence, nay with more willing Acquiescence (not even any of your own Sons of the Church)

Your Obedient, &c.

^a *The Paradise Regain'd. I suppose this was in Compliment to the Bishop. It could never be his own Opinion.*

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L E T T E R X V I.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

April 6, 1722.

UNDER all the Leisure in the World, I have no Leisure, no Stomach to write to you: The gradual Approaches of Death are before my Eyes. I am convinced that it must be so; and yet make a Shift to flatter myself sometimes with the Thought that it may possibly be otherwise. And that very Thought, tho' it is directly contrary to my Reason, does for a few Moments make me easy—however not easy enough in good Earnest to think of any Thing, but the melancholy Object that employs them. Therefore wonder not that I do not answer your kind Letter: I shall answer it too soon, I fear, by accepting your friendly Invitation. When I do so, no Conveniencies will be wanting: for I'll see no Body but you and your Mother, and the Servants. Visits to Statesmen always were to me (and are now more than ever) insipid Things; let the Men that expect, that wish to thrive by them, pay them that Homage; I am free. When I want them, they shall hear of me at their Doors; when they want me, I shall be sure to hear of them at mine. But probably they will despise me so much, and I shall court them so little, that we shall both of us keep our Distance.

When I come to you, 'tis in order to be with you only; a President of the Council, or a Star and Garter will make no more Impression upon my Mind, at such a Time, than the hearing of a Bagpipe, or the Sight of a Puppet-shew. I have said to Greatness sometime ago—*Tuas tibi res habeto, Egomet curabo meas.* The Time is not far off when we shall all be upon the Level: and I am resolv'd, for my Part, to anticipate that Time, and be upon the Level with them now: for he is so, that neither seeks nor wants them. Let them have more Virtue and less Pride:

and then I'll court them as much as any Body : but 'till they resolve to distinguish themselves some Way else than by their outward Trappings, I am determined (and, I think, I have a Right) to be as proud as they are : tho' I trust in God, my Pride is neither of so odious a Nature as theirs, nor of so mischievous a Consequence.

I know not how I have fallen into this Train of Thinking—when I sat down to write I intended only to excuse myself for not writing, and to tell you that the Time drew nearer and nearer, when I must dislodge ; I am preparing for it : For I am at this Moment building a Vault in the Abby, for me and mine. 'Twas to be in the Abby, because of my Relation to the Place ; but 'tis at the west Door of it : as far from Kings and *Cæsars* as the Space will admit of.

I know not but I may step to Town To-morrow, to see how the Work goes forward ; but, if I do, I shall return hither in the Evening. I would not have given you the Trouble of this Letter but that they tell me it will cost you nothing, and that our Privilege of Franking (one of the most valuable we have left) is again allow'd us.

Your, &c.

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from DR. ATTERBURY. 101

LETTER XVII.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

Bromley, May 25, 1722.

I HAD much ado to get hither last Night, the Water being so rough that the Ferry-men were unwilling to venture. The first Thing I saw this Morning after my Eyes were open, was your Letter, for the Freedom and Kindness of which I thank you. Let all Compliments be laid aside between us for the future; and depend upon me as your faithful Friend in all Things within my Power, as one that truly values you, and wishes you all Manner of Happiness. I thank you and Mrs. Pope for my kind Reception, which has left a pleasing Impression upon me that will not soon be effaced.

Lord * * has press'd me terribly to see him at * *, and told me in a Manner betwixt Kindness and Resentment, that it is but a few Miles beyond *Twickenham*.

I have but a little Time left, and a great deal to do in it: and must expect that ill Health will render a good Share of it useless; and therefore what is likely to be left at the Foot of the Account, ought by me to be cherish'd, and not thrown away in Compliment. You know the Motto of my Sun-dial, *Vivite, ait, fugio*. I will, as far as I am able, follow its Advice, and cut of all unnecessary Avocations and Amusements. There are those that intend to employ me this Winter in a Way I do not like: If they persist in their Intentions, I must apply myself to the Work they cut out for me, as well as I can. But withal, that shall not hinder me from employing myself also in a Way which they do not like. The Givers of Trouble one Day shall have their Share of it another; that at last they may be induced to let me be quiet, and live to myself with the few (the very few) Friends I like; for that is the Point, the single Point I now

aim at : tho', I know, the Generality of the World who are unacquainted with my Intentions and Views, think the very Reverse of this Character belongs to me. I don't know how I have rambled into this Account of myself ; when I sat down to write, I had no Thought of making that any Part of my Letter.

You might have been sure without my telling you, that my Right-hand is at Ease ; else I should not have overflow'd at this Rate. And yet I have not done, for there is a kind Intimation in the End of yours, which I understood, because it seems to tend towards employing me in something that is agreeable to you. Pray explain yourself, and believe that you have not an Acquaintance in the World that would be more in Earnest on such an Occasion than I, for I love you, as well as esteem you.

All the while I have been writing, Pain, and a fine Thrush have been severally endeavouring to call off my Attention ; but both in vain, nor should I yet part with you, but that the turning over a new Leaf frights me a little, and makes me resolve to break through a new Temptation, before it has taken too fast Hold on me,

I am, &c.

• L E T -

from D. R. ATTERBURY. 103

LETTER XVIII.

FROM THE SAME.

June 15, 1722.

YOU have generally written first, after our Parting; I will now be before-hand with you in my Enquiries, how you got Home and how you do, and whether you met with Lord **, and delivered my civil Reproach to him, in the Manner I desired? I suppose you did not, because I have heard nothing either from you, or from him on that Head; as, I suppose, I might have done if you had found him.

I am sick of these Men of Quality; and the more so, the oft'ner I have any Business to transact with them. They look upon it as one of their distinguishing Privileges, not to be punctual in any Business, of how great Importance soever; nor to set other People at Ease, with the Loss of the least Part of their own. This Conduct of his vexes me; but to what Purpose? or how can I alter it?

I long to see the original MS. of *Milton*; but don't know how to come at it, without your repeated Assistance.

I hope you won't utterly forget what pass'd in the Coach about *Samson Agonistes*. I shall not press you as to Time, but some Time or other, I wish you would review, and polish that Piece. If upon a new Perusal of it (which I desire you to make) you think as I do, that it is written in the very Spirit of the Ancients; it deserves your Care, and is capable of being improved, with little Trouble, into a perfect Model and Standard of Tragic Poetry—always allowing for its being a Story taken out of the Bible; which is an Objection that at this Time of Day, I know is not to be got over.

I am, &c.

LETTER XIX.

July 27.

I HAVE been as constantly at *Twittenham* as your Lordship has at *Bromley*, ever since you saw Lord *Bathurst*. At the Time of the Duke of *Marlborough's* Funeral, I intend to lie at the Deanry, and moralize with you one Evening on the Vanity of human Glory.

The Duchess's ^a Letter concerns me nearly, and you know it, who know all my Thoughts without Disguise: I must keep clear of Flattery; I will: and as this is an honest Resolution, I dare hope, your Lordship will not be so unconcern'd for my keeping it, as not to assist me in so doing. I beg therefore you would represent thus much at least to her Grace, that as to the Fear she seems touch'd with, [That the Duke's Memory should have no Advantage but what he must give himself, without being beholden to any one Friend] Your Lordship may certainly, and agreeable to your Character, both of rigid Honour and Christian Plainness, tell her, that no Man can have any other Advantage: and that all Offerings of Friends in such a Case pass for nothing. Be but so good as to confirm what I've represented to her, that an Inscription in the antient Way, plain, pompous, yet modest, will be the most uncommon, and therefore the most distinguishing Manner of doing it. And so, I hope, she will be satisfied, the Duke's Honour be preserv'd, and my Integrity also: which is too sacred a Thing to be forfeited, in Consideration of any little (or what People of Quality may call great) Honour or Distinction whatever, which those of their Rank can bestow on one of mine; and which indeed they are apt to over-rate, but never so much, as when they imagine us under any Obligation to say one untrue Word in their Favour.

I can

^a *The Duchess of Buckingham.*

I can only thank you, my Lord, for the kind Transition you make from common Business, to that which is the only real Business of every reasonable Creature. Indeed I think more of it than you imagine, tho' not so much as I ought. I am pleased with those *Latin* Verses extremely, which are so very good that I thought them your's, 'till you called them an *Horatian Cento*, and then I recollected the *disiecta membra poetæ*. I won't pretend I am so totally in those Sentiments which you compliment me with, as I yet hope to be: You tell me I have them, as the civilest Method to put me in Mind how much it fits me to have them. I ought, first, to prepare my Mind by a better Knowledge even of good profane Writers, especially the Moralists, &c. before I can be worthy of tasting that Supreme of Books, and Sublime of all Writings. In which, as in all the intermediate ones, you may (if your Friendship and Charity toward me continue so far) be the best Guide to

Your, &c.

LETTER XX.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

July 30, 1722.

I HAVE written to the Duchess ^a just as you desired, and referred her to our Meeting in Town for a further Account of it. I have done it the rather because your Opinion in the Case is sincerely mine: and if it had not been so, you yourself should not have induced me to give it. Whether, and how far she will acquiesce in it, I cannot say, especially in a Case where she thinks the Duke's Honour concerned; but should she seem to persist a little at present, her good Sense (which I depend upon) will afterwards satisfy her that we are in the Right.

I go To-morrow to the Deanry, and, I believe, I shall stay there, till I have said Dust to Dust, and shut up that ^b last Scene of pompous Vanity.

'Tis a great while for me to stay there at this Time of Year: and I know I shall often say to myself, while I am expecting the Funeral,

*O Rus, quando ego te aspiciam! quandoque licebit
Ducere sollicitæ jocunda oblivia vitæ!*

In that Case I shall fancy I hear the Ghost of the Dead, thus intreating me;

*At tu sacratæ ne parce malignus arenæ
Offibus & capiti inhumato
Particulam dare—*

*Quânquam festinas, non est mora longa; licebit,
Injecto ter pulvere, curras.*

There

^a Duchess of Buckingham.

^b This was the Funeral of the Duke of Marlborough, at which the Bishop officiated as Dean of Westminster in Aug. 1722. P.

There is an Answer for me somewhere in *Hamlet* to this Request, which you remember, tho' I don't. *Poor Ghost? thou shalt be satisfied!*—or something like it. However that be, take Care you do not fail in your Appointment, that the Company of the Living may make me some Amends for my Attendance on the Dead.

I know you will be glad to hear that I am well : I should always, could I always be here—

Sed me

Imperiosa trahit Proserpina: vive, valeque.

You are the first Man I sent to this Morning, and the last Man I desire to converse with this Evening, tho' at twenty Miles Distance from you.

Te, veniente die, Te, decedente, requiro.

LET

LETTER XXI.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

DEAR SIR, *The Tower, April 10, 1725.*

I THANK you for all the Instances of your Friendship, both before, and since my Misfortunes. A little Time will complete them, and separate you and me for ever. But in what Part of the World soever I am, I will live mindful of your sincere Kindness to me; and will please myself with the Thought, that I still live in your Esteem and Affection, as much as ever I did; and that no Accident of Life, no Distance of Time, or Place, will alter you in that Respect. It never can me; who have loved and valued you, ever since I knew you, and shall not fail to do it when I am not allowed to tell you so: as the Case will soon be. Give my faithful Services to Dr. *Arbutnot*, and Thanks for what he sent me, which was much to the Purpose, if any Thing can be said to be to the Purpose, in a Case that is already determined. Let him know my Defence will be such, that neither my Friends need blush for me, nor will my Enemies have great Occasion of Triumph, tho' sure of the Victory. I shall want his Advice before I go Abroad, in many Things. But I question whether I shall be permitted to see him, or any Body, but such as are absolutely necessary towards the Dispatch of my private Affairs. If so, God bless you both! and may no Part of the ill Fortune that attends me, ever pursue either of you! I know not but I may call upon you at my Hearing, to say somewhat about my Way of spending my Time at the Deanry, which did not seem calculated towards managing Plots and Conspiracies. But of that I shall consider—You and I have spent many Hours together upon much pleasanter Subjects;

from D. R. ATTERBURY. 109

Subjects ; and, that I may preserve the old Custom, I shall not part with you 'till I have clos'd this Letter, with three Lines of *Milton*, which you will, I know, readily and not without some Degree of Concern apply to your ever affectionate, &c.

*Some nat'ral Tears he dropt, but wip'd them soon :
The World was all before him, where to chuse
His Place of Rest, and Providence his Guide.*

L E T.

LETTER XXII.

THE ANSWER.

April 20, 1723.

IT is not possible to express what I think, and what I feel; only this, that I have thought and felt for nothing but you, for some Time past: and shall think of nothing so long for the Time to come. The greatest Comfort I had was in Intention (which I would have made practicable) to have attended you in your Journey, to which I had brought that Person to consent, who only could have hindered me, by a Tye which, tho' it may be more tender, I do not think more strong, than that of Friendship. But I fear there will be no Way left me to tell you this great Truth, that I remember you, that I love you, that I am grateful to you, that I entirely esteem and value you: no Way but that one, which needs no open Warrant to authorize it, or secret Conveyance to secure it; which no Bills can preclude, and no Kings prevent; a Way that can reach to any Part of the World where you may be, where the very Whisper or even the Wish of a Friend must not be heard, or even suspected: by this Way I dare tell my Esteem and Affection of you, to your Enemies in the Gates, and you, and they, and their Sons, must hear of it.

You prove yourself, my Lord, to know me for the Friend I am; in judging that the Manner of your Defence, and your Reputation by it, is a Point of the highest Concern to me: and assuring me, it shall be such, that none of your Friends shall blush for you. Let me further prompt you to do yourself the best and most lasting Justice; the Instruments of your Fame to Posterity will be in your own Hands. May it not be, that Providence has appointed you to some great and useful Work, and calls you to it this severe Way? You may more eminently and more effectually serve the Public even now, than in the Stations you have

from D^R. A T T E R B U R Y. 111

have so honourably filled. Think of *Tully*, *Bacon*, and *Clarendon*^a: is it not the latter, the disgraced Part of their Lives, which you most envy, and which you would choose to have liv'd?

I am tenderly sensible of the Wish you express, that no Part of your Misfortune may pursue me. But, God knows, I am every Day less and less fond of my native Country (so torn as it is by Party Rage) and begin to consider a Friend in Exile as a Friend in Death; one gone before, where I am not unwilling nor unprepared to follow after; and where (however various or uncertain the Roads and Voyages of another World may be) I cannot but entertain a pleasing Hope that we may meet again.

I faithfully assure you, that in the mean Time there is no one, living or dead, of whom I shall think oftener or better than of you. I shall look upon you as in a State between both, in which you will have from me all the Passions and warm Wishes that can attend the Living. And all the Respect and tender Sense of Loss, that we feel for the Dead. And I shall ever depend upon your constant Friendship, kind Memory, and good Offices, tho' I were never to see or hear the Effects of them: like the Trust we have in benevolent Spirits, who, tho' we never see or hear them, we think, are constantly serving us, and praying for us.

Whenever I am wishing to write to you, I shall conclude you are intentionally doing so to me. And every Time that I think of you, I will believe you are thinking of me. I never shall suffer to be forgotten (nay to be but faintly remember'd) the Honour, the Pleasure, the Pride I must ever have, in reflecting how frequently you have delighted me, how kindly you have distinguished me, how cordially you have
advis'd

^a *Clarendon indeed wrote his best Works in his Banishment: but the best of Bacon's were written before his Disgrace; and the best of Cicero's after his Return from Exile.*

advis'd me! In Conversation, in Study, I shall always want you, and wish for you: In my most lively, and in my most thoughtful Hours, I shall equally bear about me, the Impressions of you: And perhaps it will not be in This Life only, that I shall have Cause to remember and acknowledge the Friendship of the Bishop of *Rocheſter*.

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from DR. ATTERBURY. 113

LETTER XXIII.

TO THE SAME.

May 17, 1723.

ONCE more I write to you as I promis'd, and this once, I fear, will be the last! the Curtain will soon be drawn between my Friend and me, and nothing left but to wish you a long good Night. May you enjoy a State of Repose in this Life, not unlike that Sleep of the Soul which some have believ'd is to succeed it, where we lye utterly forgetful of that World from which we are gone, and ripening for that to which we are to go. If you retain any Memory of the past, let it only image to you what has pleas'd you best; sometimes present a Dream of an absent Friend, or bring you back an agreeable Conversation. But upon the whole, I hope you will think less of the Time past than of the future; as the former has been less kind to you than the latter infallibly will be. Do not envy the World your Studies; they will tend to the Benefit of Men against whom you can have no Complaint. I mean of all Posterity: and perhaps, at your Time of Life, nothing else is worth your Care. What is every Year of a wise Man's Life but a Censure or Critic on the past? Those whose Date is the shortest, live long enough to laugh at one half of it: the Boy despises the Infant, the Man the Boy, the Philosopher both, and the Christian all. You may now begin to think your Manhood was too much a Puerility; and you'll never suffer your Age to be but a second Infancy. The Toys and Baubles of your Childhood are hardly now more below you, than those Toys of our riper and of our declining Years, the Drums and Rattles of Ambition, and the Dirt and Bubbles of Avarice. At this Time, when you are cut off from a little Society and made a Citizen of the World at large, you should bend your Talents not to serve a Party or a few,

few, but all Mankind. Your Genius should mount above that Mist in which its Participation and Neighbourhood with Earth long involv'd it; to shine Abroad and to Heaven, ought to be the Business, and the Glory of your present Situation. Remember it was at such a Time, that the greatest Lights of Antiquity dazzled and blazed the most, in their Retreat, in their Exile, or in their Death: But why do I talk of dazzling or blazing? it was then that they did Good, that they gave Light, and that they became Guides to Mankind.

Those Aims alone are worthy of Spirits truly great, and such I therefore hope will be yours. Repentment indeed may remain, perhaps cannot be quite extinguish'd, in the noblest Minds? but Revenge never will harbour there: higher Principles than those of the first, and better Principles than those of the latter, will infallibly influence Men, whose Thoughts and whose Hearts are enlarged, and cause them to prefer the Whole to any Part of Mankind, especially to so small a Part as one's single Self.

Believe me, my Lord, I look upon you as a Spirit entered into another Life^a, as one just upon the Edge of Immortality; where the Passions and Affections must be much more exalted, and where you ought to despise all little Views, and all mean Retrospects. Nothing is worth your looking back; and therefore look forward, and make (as you can) the World look after you. But take Care that it be not with Pity, but with Esteem and Admiration.

I am with the greatest Sincerity, and Passion for your Fame as well as Happiness.

Your, &c.

^a *The Bishop of Rochester went into Exile the Month following, and continued in it till his Death, which happened at Paris, on the fifteenth Day of February in the Year 1732. P.*

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from DR. ATTERBURY. 115

LETTER XXIV.

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

Paris, Nov. 23, 1731.

YOU will wonder to see me in Print; but how could I avoid it? the Dead and the Living, my Friends and my Foes, at Home and Abroad, call'd upon me to say something; and the Reputation of an ^a History which I and all the World value, must have suffered, had I continued silent. I have printed it here, in Hopes that somebody may venture to reprint it in *England*, notwithstanding those two frightening Words at the Close of ^b it. Whether that happens or not, it is fit you should have a Sight of it, who, I know, will read it with some Degree of Satisfaction, as it is mine, tho' it should have (as it really has) nothing else to recommend it. Such as it is, *Extremum hoc munus morientis habeto*; for that may well be the Case, considering that within a few Months I am entering into my seventieth Year: after which, even the Healthy and the Happy cannot much depend upon Life, and will not, if they are wise, much desire it. Whenever I go, you will lose a Friend who loves and values you extremely; if in my Circumstances I can be said to be lost to any one, when dead, more than I am already whilst living. I expected to have heard from you by Mr. Morice, and wonder'd a little that I did not; but he owns himself in a Fault, for not giving you due Notice of his Motions. It was not amiss that you forbore writing, on a Head wherein I promis'd more than I was

^a *E. of Clarendon's.*

^b *The Bishop's Name set to his Vindication of Bishop Smalridge, Dr. Aldrich, and himself, from the scandalous Reflections of Oldmixon, relating to the Publication of Lord Clarendon's History.* Paris, 1731, 4to. since reprinted in England. P.

able to perform. Disgraced Men fancy sometimes, that they preserve an Influence, where when they endeavour to exert it, they soon see their Mistake. I did so, my good Friend, and acknowledge it under my Hand. You founded the Coast, and found out my Error, it seems, before I was aware of it: but enough on this Subject.

What are they doing in *England* to the Honour of Letters: and particularly what are you doing? *Ipse quid audes? Quæ circumvolitas agilis Thyma?* Do you pursue the moral Plan you marked out, and seemed sixteen Months ago so intent upon? Am I to see it perfected ere I die, and are you to enjoy the Reputation of it while you live? or do you rather chuse to leave the Marks of your Friendship, like the Legacies of a Will, to be read and enjoyed only by those who survive you? Were I near you as I have been, I should hope to peep into the Manuscript before it was finished. But alas! there is, and will ever probably be a great deal of Land and Sea between us. How many Books have come out of late in your Parts, which you think I should be glad to peruse? Name them: The Catalogue, I believe, will not cost you much Trouble. They must be good ones indeed, to challenge any Part of my Time, now I have so little of it left. I, who squandered whole Days heretofore, now husband Hours when the Glass begins to run low, and care not to mispend them on Trifles. At the End of the Lottery of Life, our last Minutes, like Tickets left in the Wheel, rise in their Valuation. They are not of so much Worth perhaps in themselves as those which preceded, but we are apt to prize them more, and with Reason. I do so, my dear Friend, and yet think the most precious Minutes of my Life are well employ'd, in reading what you write. But this is a Satisfaction I cannot much hope for, and therefore must betake myself to others less entertaining. Adieu! dear Sir, and forgive me engaging with one, whom you, I think, have reckoned among the Heroes of the *Dunciad*. It was necessary for me
either

from D R. A T T E R B U R Y. 117

either to accept of his dirty Challenge, or to have suffered in the Esteem of the World by declining it.

My Respects to your Mother ; I send one of these Papers for Dean *Swift*, if you have an Opportunity, and think it worth while to convey it. My Country at this Distance seems to me a strange Sight, I know not how it appears to you, who are in the midst of the Scene, and yourself a Part of it ; I wish you would tell me. You may write safely to Mr. *Morice*, by the honest Hand that conveys this, and will return into these Parts before *Christmas* ; sketch out a rough Draught of it, that I may be able to judge whether a Return to it be really eligible, or whether I should not, like the Chemist in the Bottle, upon hearing Don *Quevedo's* Account of *Spain*, desire to be corked up again.

After all, I do and must love my Country, with all its Faults and Blemishes ; even that Part of the Constitution which wounded me unjustly, and itself through my Side, shall ever be dear to me. My last Wish shall be like that of Father *Paul*, *Esto perpetua !* and when I die at a Distance from it, it will be in the same Manner as *Virgil* describes the expiring *Peloponnesian*,

Sternitur,

et dulces moriens reminiscitur Argos:

Do I still live in the Memory of Friends, as they certainly do in mine ? I have read a good many of your Paper Squabbles about me, and am glad to see such free Concessions on that Head, tho' made with no View of doing me a Pleasure, but merely of loading another,

I am, &c.

L E T-

FROM THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

ON THE DEATH OF HIS DAUGHTER.

Montpelier, Nov. 20, 1729.

I AM not yet Master enough of myself, after the late Wound I have receiv'd, to open my very Heart to you, and I am not content with less than that whenever I converse with you. My Thoughts are at present vainly, but pleasingly employ'd, on what I have lost, and can never recover. I know well I ought, for that Reason, to call them off to other Subjects, but hitherto I have not been able to do it. By giving them the Rein a little, and suffering them to spend their Force, I hope in some Time to check and subdue them. *Multis fortunæ vulneribus percussus, huic uni me imparem sensi, et pene succubui.* This is Weakness, not Wisdom, I own; and on that Account fitter to be trusted to the Bosom of a Friend, where I may safely lodge all my Infirmities. As soon as my Mind is in some Measure corrected and calm'd, I will endeavour to follow your Advice, and turn it to something of Use and Moment; if I have still Life enough left to do any Thing that is worth reading and preserving. In the mean Time I shall be pleas'd to hear that you proceed in what you intend, without any such melancholy Interruption as I have met with. Your Mind is as yet unbroken by Age and ill Accidents, your Knowledge and Judgment are at the Height: use them in writing somewhat that may teach the present and future Times, and if not gain equally the Applause of both, may yet raise the Envy of the one, and secure the Admiration of the other. Employ not your precious Moments, and great Talents on little Men and little Things; but chuse a Subject every Way worthy of you, and handle it as you can, in a Manner which

which no Body else can equal or imitate. As for me, my Abilities, if ever I had any, are not what they were: and yet I will endeavour to recollect and employ them.

gelidus tardante senectâ

Sanguis hebet, frigentque effæto in corpore vires.

However, I should be ingrateful to this Place, if I did not own that I have gained upon the Gout in the South of *France*, much more than I did at *Paris*: tho' even there I sensibly improved. I believe my Cure had been perfected, but the earnest Desire of meeting one I dearly loved, called me abruptly to *Montpelier*; where after continuing two Months, under the cruel Torture of a sad and fruitless Expectation, I was forced at last to take a long Journey to *Toulouse*; and even there I had miss'd the Person I sought, had she not, with great Spirit and Courage, ventur'd all Night up the *Garonne* to see me, which she above all Things desired to do before she died. By that Means she was brought where I was, between seven and eight in the Morning, and lived twenty Hours afterwards, which Time was not lost on either Side, but pass'd in such a Manner as gave great Satisfaction to both, and such as on her Part, every Way became her Circumstances and Character. For she had her Senses to the very last Gasps, and exerted them to give me, in those few Hours, greater Marks of Duty and Love than she had done in all her Life-time, tho' she had never been wanting in either. The last Words she said to me were the kindest of all; a Reflection on the Goodness of God, which had allow'd us in this Manner to meet once more, before we parted for ever. Not many Minutes after that, she laid herself on her Pillow, in a sleeping Posture.

Placidaque ibi demum morte quievit.

Judge

Judge you, Sir, what I felt, and still feel on this Occasion, and spare me the Trouble of describing it. At my Age, under my Infirmities, among utter Strangers, how shall I find out proper Reliefs and Supports? I can have none but those with which Reason and Religion furnish me, and those I lay hold on, and grasp as fast as I can. I hope that He, who laid the Burden upon me (for wise and good Purposes no Doubt) will enable me to bear it, in like Manner, as I have borne others, with some Degree of Fortitude and Firmness.

You see how ready I am to relapse into an Argument which I had quitted once before in this Letter. I shall probably again commit the same Fault, if I continue to write; and therefore I stop short here, and with all Sincerity, Affection, and Esteem, bid you adieu! till we meet either in this World, if God pleases, or else in another.

I am, &c.

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LETTERS

TO AND FROM

M R. G A Y.

From the Year 1712 to 1732.

LETTER I.

Binfield, Nov. 13, 1712.

YOU writ me a very kind Letter some Months ago, and told me you were then upon the Point of taking a Journey into *Devonshire*. That hindered my answering you, and I have since several Times inquired of you, without any Satisfaction; for so I call the Knowledge of your Welfare, or of any Thing that concerns you. I past two Months in *Sussex*, and since my Return have been again very ill. I writ to *Lintot* in Hopes of hearing of you, but had no Answer to that Point. Our Friend *Mr. Cromwell* too has been silent all this Year; I believe he has been displeased at some or other of my *Freedom's*^a,
VOL. VIII. G which

^a *We see by the Letters to Mr. Cromwell, that Mr. Pope was wont to railly him on his Turn for trifling and pedantic Criticism. So he lost his two early Friends, Cromwell and Wycherly, by his Zeal to correct the bad Poetry of the one, and the bad Taste of the other.*

which I very innocently take, and most with those I think most my Friends. But this I know nothing of; perhaps he may have opened to you: and if I know you right, you are of a Temper to cement Friendships, and not to divide them. I really much love Mr. *Cromwell*, and have a true Affection for yourself, which, if I had any Interest in the World, or Power with those who have, I should not be long without manifesting to you. I desire you will not, either out of Modesty, or a vicious Distrust of another's Value for you (those two eternal Foes to Merit) imagine that your Letters and Conversation are not always welcome to me. There is no Man more intirely fond of Good-nature or Ingenuity than myself, and I have seen too much of those Qualities in you to be any Thing less than

Your, &c.

LETTER

YOU will see a very kind Letter from Mr. M. to me, and told me you were to write to him the Letter of asking a Journey into Germany. I had intended my answering you, and I have done several Times inquired of you without any Satisfaction, for so I call the Knowledge of your Wishes, as to any Thing that concerns you. I had two Letters from you, and since my Return have been again and again looking in Boxes of Letters, and looking at them, and I have been almost all this Year, I believe, as has been displayed at some of our Friends.

Vol. VIII.

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LETTER II.

Dec. 24, 1712.

IT has been my good Fortune within this Month past, to hear more Things that have pleas'd me than (I think) almost in all my Time beside. But nothing upon my Word has been so Home-felt a Satisfaction as the News you tell me of yourself: and you are not in the least mistaken, when you congratulate me upon your own good Success; for I have more People out of whom to be happy, than any ill-natured Man can boast of. I may with Honesty affirm to you, that notwithstanding the many Inconveniences and Disadvantages they commonly talk of in the *res angusti domi*, I have never found any other, than the Inability of giving People of Merit the only certain Proof of our Value for them, in doing them some real Service. For after all, if we could but think a little, Self-love might make us Philosophers, and convince us *quantuli indiget Natura!* Ourselves are easily provided for; 'tis nothing but the Circumstantials, and the Apparatus or Equipage of human Life, that costs so much the furnishing. Only what a luxurious Man wants for Horses, and Footmen, a Good-natur'd Man wants for his Friends, or the Indigent.

I shall see you this Winter with much greater Pleasure than I could the last; and, I hope, as much of your Time, as your Attendance on the Duchess^a will allow you to spare to any Friend, will not be thought lost upon one who is as much so as any Man. I must also put you in Mind, tho' you are now Secretary to this Lady, that you are likewise Secretary

G 2

to

^a Duchess of Monmouth, to whom he was just then made Secretary. P.

to nine other Ladies, and are to write sometimes for them too. He who is forced to live wholly upon those Ladies Favours is indeed in as precarious a Condition as any He who does what *Chaucer* says for Sustainance; but they are very agreeable Companions, like other Ladies, when a Man only passes a Night or so with them at his Leisure, and away. I am

Your, &c.

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LETTER III.

Aug. 23, 1713.

JUST as I received yours, I was set down to write to you, with some Shame that I had so long deferred it. But I can hardly repent my Neglect, when it gives me the Knowledge how little you insist upon Ceremony, and how much a greater Share in your Memory I have, than I deserve. I have been near a Week in *London*, where I am like to remain, till I become, by Mr. *Jervas's* Help, *Elegans formarum Spectator*. I begin to discover Beauties that were till now imperceptible to me. Every Corner of an Eye, or Turn of a Nose or Ear, the smallest Degree of Light or Shade on a Cheek, or in a Dimple, have Charms to distract me. I no longer look upon Lord *Plausible* as ridiculous, for admiring a Lady's fine Tip of an Ear and pretty Elbow (as the *Plain Dealer* has it) but am in some Danger even from the Ugly and Disagreeable, since they may have their retired Beauties, in one Trait or other about them. You may guess in how uneasy a State I am, when every Day the Performances of others appear more beautiful and excellent, and my own more despicable. I have thrown away three Dr. *Swifts* each of which was once my Vanity, two Lady *Bridgwaters*, a Duchess of *Montague*, besides half a dozen Earls, and one Knight of the Garter. I have crucified Christ over-again in Effigie, and made a Madona as old as her Mother *St. Anne*. Nay, what is yet more miraculous, I have rivall'd *St. Luke* himself in Painting, and as, 'tis said, an Angel came and finished his Piece, so, you would swear, a Devil put the last Hand to mine, 'tis so begrimed and smutted. However I comfort myself with a Christian Reflection, that I have not broken the Commandment, for my Pictures are not the Likeness of any Thing in Heaven above, or in Earth below, or in the Water under the Earth. Neither will any Body adore or wor-

ship them, except the *Indians* should have a Sight of them, who, they tell us, worshipped certain Idols purely for their Ugliness.

I am very much recreated and refreshed with the News of the Advancement of the *Fan*^a, which, I doubt not, will delight the Eye and Sense of the Fair, as long as that agreeable Machine shall play in the Hands of Posterity. I am glad your Fan is mounted so soon, but I would have you varnish and glaze it at your Leisure, and polish the Sticks as much as you can. You may then cause it to be borne in the Hands of both Sexes, no less in *Britain*, than it is in *China*; where it is ordinary for a Mandarin to fan himself cool after a Debate, and a Statesman to hide his Face with it when he tells a grave Lie.

I am, &c.

^a A Poem of Mr. Gay's, so entitled.

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from M R. GAY.

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LETTER IV.

DEAR MR. GAY,

Sept. 23, 1714.

WELCOME to your native Soil^a! welcome to your Friends! thrice welcome to me! whether returned in Glory, blest with Court-Interest! the Love and Familiarity of the Great, and fill'd with agreeable Hopes; or melancholy with Dejection, contemplative of the Changes of Fortune, and doubtful for the future: Whether return'd a triumphant Whig, or a desponding Tory, equally all hail! equally beloved and welcome to me! If happy, I am to partake in your Elevation; if unhappy, you have still a warm Corner in my Heart, and a Retreat at *Binfield* in the worst of Times at your Service. If you are a Tory, or thought so by any Man, I know it can proceed from nothing but your Gratitude to a few People who endeavour'd to serve you, and whose Politics were never your Concern. If you are a Whig, as I rather hope, and, as I think, your Principles and mine (as Brother Poets) had ever a Bias to the Side of Liberty, I know you will be an honest Man, and an inoffensive one. Upon the whole, I know, you are incapable of being so much of either Party as to be good for nothing. Therefore, once more, whatever you are, or in whatever State you are, all hail!

One or two of your Friends complain'd they had heard nothing from you since the Queen's Death; I told them no Man living lov'd Mr. Gay better than I, yet I had not once written to him in all his Voyage. This I thought a convincing Proof, how truly one may be a Friend to another without telling him so

G 4

every

^a In the Beginning of this Year Mr. Gay went over to Hanover with the Earl of Clarendon, who was sent thither by Queen Anne. On her Death they returned to England: and it was on this Occasion that Mr. Pope met him with this friendly Welcome.

every Month. But they had Reasons too themselves to alledge in your Excuse; as Men who really value one another, will never want such as make their Friends and themselves easy. The late universal Concern in public Affairs, threw us all into a Hurry of Spirits: even I, who am more a Philosopher than to expect any Thing from any Reign, was borne away with the Current, and full of the Expectation of the Successor; During your Journey I knew not whither to aim a Letter after you; that was a Sort of Shooting flying: add to this the Demand *Homer* had upon me, to write fifty Verses a Day, besides learned Notes, all which are at a Conclusion for this Year. Rejoice with me, O my Friend, that my Labour is over; come and make merry with me in much Feasting: We will feed among the Lilies (by the Lilies I mean the Ladies.) Are not the *Rosalinda's* of *Britain* as charming as the *Blousalinda's* of the *Hague*? or have the two great Pastoral Poets of our Nation renounced Love at the same Time? for *Philips*, immortal *Philips* hath deserted, yea, and in a rustic Manner kicked, his *Rosalind*. Dr. *Parnelle* and I have been inseparable ever since you went. We are now at the *Bath*, where (if you are not, as I heartily hope, better engaged) your coming would be the greatest Pleasure to us in the World. Talk not of Expences: *Homer* shall support his Children. I beg a Line from you directed to the Post-house in *Bath*. Poor *Parnelle* is in an ill State of Health.

Pardon me if I add a Word of Advice in the poetical Way. Write something on the King, or Prince, or Princess. On whatsoever Foot you may be with the Court, this can do no Harm—I shall never know where to end, and am confounded in the many Things I have to say to you, tho' they all amount but to this, that I am entirely, as ever,

Your, &c.

L E T-

LETTER V.

London, Nov. 8, 1717.

I AM extremely glad to find by a Letter of yours to Mr. Fortescue, that you have received one from me; and I beg you to keep as the greatest of Curiosities, that Letter of mine which you received, and I never writ.

But the Truth is, that we were made here to expect you in a short Time, that I was upon the Ramble most Part of the Summer, and have concluded the Season in Grief, for the Death of my poor Father.

I shall not enter into a Detail of my Concerns and Troubles for two Reasons; because I am really afflicted and need no Airs of Grief, and because they are not the Concerns and Troubles of any but myself. But I think you (without too great a Compliment) enough my Friend, to be pleas'd to know he died easily, without a Groan, or the Sicknefs of two Minutes; in a Word, as silently and peacefully as he lived.

Sic mihi contingat vivere, sicque mori!

I am not in the Humour to say gay Things, nor in the Affectation of avoiding them. I can't pretend to entertain either Mr. Pultney or you, as you have done both my Lord Burlington and me, by your Letter to Mr. Lowndes^a. I am only sorry that you have no greater Quarrel with Mr. Lowndes, and wish you paid some hundreds a Year to the Land-Tax. That Gentleman is lately become an inoffensive Person to me too; so that we may join heartily in our Addresses to him, and (like true Patriots) rejoice in all that Good done to the Nation and Government, to which we contribute nothing ourselves.

G 5

I should

^a A Poem intituled, *To my ingenious and worthy Friend W. Lowndes, Esq; Author of that celebrated Treatise in Folio called the LAND-TAX-BILL.*

I should not forget to acknowledge your Letter sent from *Aix*; you told me then that writing was not good with the Waters, and, I find since, you are of my Opinion, that 'tis as bad without the Waters. But, I fancy, it is not writing but thinking, that is so bad with the Waters; and then you might write without any Manner of Prejudice, if you writ like our Brother Poets of these Days.

The Ducheſs, Lord *Warwick*, Lord *Stanbope*, Mrs. *Bellenden*, Mrs. *Lepell*, and I can't tell who elſe, had your Letters: Dr. *Arbuthnot* and I expect to be treated like Friends. I would ſend my Services to Mr. *Pultney*, but that he is out of Favour at Court; and make ſome Compliment to Mrs. *Pultney*, if ſhe were not a Whig. My Lord *Burlington* tells me ſhe has as much out-ſhin'd all the *French* Ladies, as ſhe did the *Engliſh* before: I am ſorry for it, becauſe it will be detrimental to our holy Religion, if heretical Women ſhould eclipse thoſe Nuns and orthodox Beauties, in whoſe Eyes alone lie all the Hopes we can have, of gaining ſuch fine Gentlemen as you to our Church.

Your, &c.

I wiſh you Joy of the Birth of the young Prince, becauſe he is the only Prince we have, from whom you have had no Expectations and no Diſappointments.

L E T.

from M R. G A Y.

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L E T T E R VI.

FROM MR. GAY TO MR. F—:

Stanton-Harcourt, Aug. 9, 1718.

THE only News that you can expect to have from me here, is News from Heaven, for I am quite out of the World, and there is scarce any Thing can reach me except the Noise of Thunder, which undoubtedly you have heard too. We have read in old Authors of high Towers levell'd by it to the Ground, while the humble Vallies have escaped: the only Thing that is Proof against it is the Laurel, which, however, I take to be no great Security to the Brains of modern Authors. But to let you see that the contrary to this often happens, I must acquaint you, that the highest and most extravagant Heap of Towers in the Universe, which is in this Neighbourhood, stand still undefaced, while a Cock of Barley in our next Field has been consumed to Ashes. Would to God that this Heap of Barley had been all that had perished! for unhappily beneath this little Shelter sat two much more constant Lovers than ever were found in Romance under the Shade of a Beech-Tree. *John Hewet* was a well-set Man of about five and twenty, *Sarah Drew* might rather be called comely than beautiful, and was about the same Age. They had pass'd through the various Labours of the Year together, with the greatest Satisfaction; if she milk'd, 'twas his Morning and Evening Care, to bring the Cows to her Hand; it was but last Fair that he bought her a Present of green Silk for her straw Hat; and the Posie on her silver Ring was of his chusing. Their Love was the Talk of the whole Neighbourhood; for Scandal never affirm'd, that they had any other Views than the lawful Possession of each other in Marriage. It was that very Morning that he had obtained the Consent of her Parents, and it was but till the next Week that they were to wait to be happy.

Perhaps

Perhaps in the Intervals of their Work they were now talking of the Wedding Cloaths, and *John* was suiting several Sorts of Poppies and Field Flowers to her Complexion, to chuse her a Knot for the Wedding Day. While they were thus busied, (it was on the last of *July* between two or three in the Afternoon) the Clouds grew black, and such a Storm of Lightning and Thunder ensued, that all the Labourers made the best of their Way to what Shelter the Trees and Hedges afforded. *Sarah* was frightned, and fell down in a Swoon on a Heap of Barley. *John*, who never separated from her, sat down by her Side, having raked together two or three Heaps, the better to secure her from the Storm. Immediately there was heard so loud a Crack, as if Heaven had split asunder; every one was now solicitous for the Safety of his Neighbour, and called to one another throughout the Field: No Answer being returned to those who called to our Lovers, they stept to the Place where they lay; they perceived the Barley all in a Smoke, and then spied this faithful Pair: *John* with one Arm about *Sarah's* Neck, and the other held over her, as to screen her from the Lightning. They were struck dead, and stiffen'd in this tender Posture. *Sarah's* left Eye-brow was singed, and there appeared a black Spot on her Breast: her Lover was all over black, but not the least Signs of Life were found in either. Attended by their melancholy Companions, they were convey'd to the Town, and the next Day were interr'd in *Stanton-Harcourt* Church-yard. My Lord *Harcourt*, at Mr. *Pope's* and my Request, has caused a Stone to be plac'd over them, upon Condition that we furnish the Epitaph, which is as follows:

*When eastern Lovers feed the sun'ral Fire,
On the same Pile the faithful Pair expire:
Here pitying Heav'n that Virtue mutual found,
And blasted both, that it might neither wound,
Hearts so sincere th' Almighty saw well pleas'd,
Sent his own Light'ning, and the Victims seiz'd.*
But

But my Lord is apprehensive the Country People will not understand this, and Mr. Pope says he'll make one with something of Scripture in it, and with a little of Poetry as Hopkins and Sternhold.

Your, &c.

The Epitaph was this,

*Near to this Place lie the Bodies of
JOHN HEWET and SARAH DREW,
an industrious young Man
and Virtuous Maiden of this Parish;
Who being at Harvest-Work
(With several others)
were in one Instant killed by Lightning
the last Day of July 1718.*

*Think not, by rigorous Judgment seiz'd,
A Pair so faithful could expire;
Victims so pure Heav'n saw well pleas'd,
And snatch'd them in celestial Fire.*

*Live well, and fear no sudden Fate;
When God calls Virtue to the Grave,
Alike 'tis Justice soon or late,
Mercy alike to kill or save.*

*Virtue unmov'd can bear the Call;
And face the Flash that melts the Ball.*

E E T

LETTER VII.

DEAR GAY,

Sept. 11, 1722.

I THANK you for remembering me; I would do my best to forget myself, but that, I find your Idea is so closely connected to me, that I must forget both together, or neither. I am sorry I could not have a Glympe either of you, or of the Sun (your Father) before you went for *Bath*: But now it pleases me to see him, and hear of you. Pray put Mr. *Congreve* in Mind that he has one on this Side of the World who loves him; and that there are more Men and Women in the Universe than Mr. *Gay* and my Lady *Duchess*. There are Ladies in and about *Richmond*, that pretend to value him and yourself; and one of them at least may be thought to do it without Affectation, namely Mrs. *Howard*.

Pray consult with Dr. *Arbuthnot* and Dr. *Cheyne*, to what exact Pitch your Belly may be suffered to swell, not to outgrow theirs, who are, yet, your Betters. Tell Dr. *Arbuthnot* that even Pigeon Pies and Hogs Puddings are thought dangerous by our Governors; for those that have been sent to the Bishop of *Rocheſter* are opened and prophanely pry'd into at the Tower: 'tis the first Time dead Pigeons have been suspected of carrying Intelligence. To be serious, you and Mr. *Congreve* and the Doctor will be sensible of my Concern and Surprize at his Commitment, whose Welfare is as much my Concern as any Friend's I have. I think myself a most unfortunate Wretch: I no sooner love, and, upon Knowledge, fix my Esteem to any Man; but he either dies, like Mr. *Craggs*, or is sent to Imprisonment like the Bishop. God send him as well as I wish him, manifest

him

from M. R. GAY.

935

him to be as innocent as I believe him, and make all his Enemies know him as well as I do, that they may think of him as well!

If you apprehend this Period to be of any Danger in being addressed to you, tell Mr. Congreve or the Doctor, it is writ to them. I am

Yours, &c.

L. E. T.

LETTERS to and
LETTER VIII.

July 13, 1722.

I WAS very much pleas'd, not to say obliged, by your kind Letter, which sufficiently warm'd my Heart to have answered it sooner, had I not been deceiv'd (a Way one often is deceived) by hearkening to Women; who told me that both Lady *Burlington* and yourself were immediately to return from *Tunbridge*, and that my Lord is gone to bring you back. The World furnishes us with too many Examples of what you complain of in yours, and, I assure you, none of them touch and grieve me so much as what relates to you. I think your Sentiments upon it are the very same I should entertain: I wish those we call great Men had the same Notions, but they are really the most little Creatures in the World; and the most interested, in all but one Point, which is, that they want Judgment^a to know their greatest Interest, to encourage and chuse honest Men for their Friends.

I have not once seen the Person you complain of, whom I have of late thought to be, as the Apostle admonisheth, one Flesh with his Wife.

Pray make my sincere Compliments to Lord *Burlington*, whom I have long known to have a stronger Bent of Mind to be all that is good and honourable, than almost any one of his Rank.

I have not forgot yours to Lord *Bolingbroke*, tho' I hope to have speedily a fuller Opportunity, he returning for *Flanders* and *France* next Month.

Mrs. *Howard* has writ you something or other in a Letter, which, she says, she repents. She has as much Good-nature as if she had never seen any Ill-nature, and had been bred among Lambs and Turtle-Doves, instead of Princes and Court-Ladies.

By

^a *Instead of*—that they want Judgment, *Propriety of Expression requires, he should have said*—there where they want Judgment.

from M R G A Y.

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By the End of this Week, Mr. Fortescue will pass a few Days with me : we shall remember you in our Potations, and wish you a Fisher with us, on my Grass-Plat. In the mean Time we wish you Success as a Fisher of Women at the Wells, a Rejoycer of the Comfortless and Widow, and a Play-fellow of the Maiden. I am

Your, &c.

L E T.

LETTER IX.

Sept. 11, 1722.

I THINK it obliging in you to desire an Account of my Health. The Truth is, I have never been in a worse State in my Life, and find whatever I have try'd as a Remedy so ineffectual, that I give myself entirely over. I wish your Health may be set perfectly right by the Waters; and, be assured, I not only wish that, and every Thing else for you, as common Friends wish, but with a Zeal not usual among those we call so. I am always glad to hear of, and from you; always glad to see you, whatever Accidents or Amusements have interven'd to make me do either less than usual. I not only frequently think of you, but constantly do my best to make others do it, by mentioning you to all your Acquaintance. I desire you to do the same for me to those you are now with: do me what you think Justice in Regard to those who are my Friends, and if there are any, whom I have unwillingly deserved so little of as to be my Enemies, I don't desire you to forfeit their Opinion, or your own Judgment in any Case. Let Time convince those who know me not, that I am an inoffensive Person; tho' (to say Truth) I don't care how little I am indebted to Time, for the World is hardly worth living in, at least to one that is never to have Health a Week together. I have been made to expect Dr. *Arbutnot* in Town this Fortnight, or else I had written to him. If he, by never writing to me, seems to forget me, I consider I do the same seemingly to him, and yet I don't believe he has a more sincere Friend in the World than I am: therefore I will think him mine. I am his, Mr. *Congreve's*, and

Your, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R X.

I Faithfully assure you, in the midst of that Melancholy with which I have been so long encompassed, in an hourly Expectation almost of my Mother's Death ; there was no Circumstance that rendered it more unsupportable to me, than that I could not leave her to see you. Your own present Escape from so imminent Danger I pray God may prove less precarious than my poor Mother's can be ; whose Life at best can be but a short Reprieve, or a longer dying. But I fear even that is more than God will please to grant me ; for, these two Days past, her most dangerous Symptoms are returned upon her ; and, unless there be a sudden Change, I must in a few Days, if not in a few Hours, be deprived of her. In the afflicting Prospect before me, I know nothing that can so much alleviate it as the View now given me (Heaven grant it may increase !) of your Recovery. In the Sincerity of my Heart, I am excessively concerned, not to be able to pay you, dear *Gay*, any Part of the Debt, I very gratefully remember, I owe you on a like sad Occasion, when you was here comforting me in her last great Illness. May your Health augment as fast as, I fear, hers must decline : I believe that would be very fast—may the Life that is added to you be past in Good-fortune and Tranquillity, rather of your own giving to yourself, than from any Expectations or Trust in others. May you and I live together, without wishing more Felicity or Acquisitions than Friendship can give and receive without Obligations to Greatness. God keep you, and three or four more of those I have known as long, that I may have something worth the surviving my Mother.

Mother. Adieu, dear *Gay*, and believe me (while you live and while I live)

Your, &c.

As I told you in my last Letter, I repeat it in this: do not think of writing to me. The Doctor, Mrs. *Howard*, and Mrs. *Blount* give me daily Accounts of you.

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LETTER XL

Sunday Night.

I TRULY rejoice to see your Hand-writing, tho' I feared the Trouble it might give you. I wish I had not known that you are still so excessively weak. Every Day for a Week past I had Hopes of being able in a Day or more to see you. But my Mother advances not at all, gains no Strength, and seems but upon the whole to wait for the next cold Day to throw her into a Diarrhoea, that must, if it returns, carry her off. This being daily to be fear'd, makes me not dare to go a Day from her, lest that should prove to be her last. God send you a speedy Recovery, and such a total one as, at your Time of Life, may be expected. You need not call the few Words I write to you, either kind, or good; that was, and is, nothing. But whatever I have in my Nature of Kindness, I really have for you, and whatever Good I could do, I would, among the very first, be glad to do to you. In your Circumstance the old *Roman* Farewel is proper, *Vive memor nostri*.

Your, &c.

I send you a very Kind Letter of Mr. Digby, between whom and me two Letters have pass'd concerning you:

LET-

LETTERS to and
LETTER XIII.

NO Words can tell you the great Concern I feel for you; I assure you it was not, and is not lessened, by the immediate Apprehension I have now every Day lain under of losing my Mother. Be assur'd, no Duty less than that should have kept me one Day from attending your Condition: I would come and take a Room by you at *Hampstead*, to be with you daily, were she not still in Danger of Death. I have constantly had particular Accounts of you from the Doctor, which have not ceas'd to alarm me yet. God preserve your Life, and restore your Health. I really beg it for my own Sake, for I feel I love you more than I thought in Health, tho' I always loved you a great deal. If I am so unfortunate as to bury my poor Mother, and yet have the good Fortune to have my Prayers heard for you, I hope we may live most of our remaining Days together. If, as I believe, the Air of a better Clime, as the southern Part of *France*, may be thought useful for your Recovery, thither I would go with you infallibly; and it is very probable we might get the Dean with us, who is in that abandon'd State already in which I shall shortly be, as to other Cares and Duties. Dear *Gay*, be as chearful as your Sufferings will permit: God is a Better Friend than a Court; even any honest Man is a better. I promise you my entire Friendship in all Events, heartily praying for your Recovery.

Your, &c.

Do not write, if you are ever so able: the Doctor tells me all.

LET-

L E T T E R X I I I .

I AM glad to hear of the Progress of your Recovery, and the oftner I hear it, the better, when it becomes easy to you to give it me. I so well remember the Consolation you were to me in my Mother's former Illness, that it doubles my Concern at this Time not to be able to be with you, or you to be able to be with me. Had I lost her, I would have been nowhere else but with you during your Confinement. I have now past five Weeks without once going from Home, and without any Company but for three or four of the Days. Friends rarely stretch their Kindness so far as ten Miles. My Lord Belingbroke and Mr. Bethel have not forgotten to visit me: the rest (except Mrs. Blount once) were contented to send Messages. I never passed so melancholy a Time, and now Mr. Congreve's Death touches me nearly. It was twenty Years and more that I have known him: Every Year carries away something dear with it, till we outlive all Tenderneffes, and become wretched Individuals again as we begun. Adieu! This is my Birth-day, and this is my Reflection upon it.

*With added Days if Life give nothing new,
But, like a Sieve, let ev'ry Pleasure through;
Some Joy still lost, as each vain Year runs o'er,
And all we gain, some sad Reflection more!
Is this is a Birth-day?—'Tis, alas! too clear,
'Tis but the Funeral of another Year.*

Your, &c.

L E T T E R

LETTER XIV.

TO THE HONOURABLE MRS. ———.

June 20.

WE cannot omit taking this Occasion to congratulate you upon the Encrease of your Family, for your Cow is this Morning very happily delivered, of the better Sort, I mean a Female Calf; she is as like her Mother as she can stare. All Knights Errant Palfreys were distinguished by lofty Names; we see no Reason why a Pastoral Lady's Sheep and Calves should want Names of the softer Sounds: we have therefore given her the Name of *Cæsar's Wife*, *Calf-urnia*: imagining, that as *Romulus* and *Remus* were suckled by a Wolf, this *Roman* Lady was suckled by a Cow, from whence she took that Name. In Order to celebrate this Birth-day we had a cold Dinner at *Marble-hill* ^a. Mrs. *Susan* offered us Wine upon the Occasion, and upon such an Occasion we could not refuse it. Our Entertainment consisted of Flesh and Fish, and the Lettice of a *Greek* Island called *Cos*. We have some Thoughts of dining there To-morrow, to celebrate the Day after the Birth-day, and on *Friday* to celebrate the Day after that, where we intend to entertain *Dean Swift*; because we think your Hall the most delightful Room in the World, except that where you are. If it was not for you, we would forswear all Courts; and really it is the most mortifying Thing in Nature, that we can neither get into the Court to live with you, nor you get into the Country to live with us; so we will take up with what we can get that belongs to you, and make ourselves as happy as we can in your House.

I hope

^a *Mrs. Howard's House.*

from M R. G A Y.

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I hope we shall be brought into no worse Company, when you all come to *Richmond*: for whatever our Friend *Gay* may wish as to getting into Court, I disclaim, and desire to see nothing of the Court but yourself, being wholly and solely

Your, &c.

VOL. VIII.

H L E T

LETTER XV.

July 21.

YOU have the same Share in my Memory that good Things generally have; I always know (whenever I reflect) that you should be in my Mind; only I reflect too seldom. However, you ought to allow me the Indulgence I allow all my Friends (and if I did not, they would take it) in Consideration that they have other Avocations, which may prevent the Proofs of their remembering me, tho' they preserve for me all the Friendship and Good-will which I deserve from them. In like Manner I expect from you, that my past Life of twenty Years may be set against the Omission of (perhaps) one Month: and if you complain of this to any other, 'tis you are in the Spleen, and not I in the Wrong. If you think this Letter splenetic, consider I have just receiv'd the News of the Death of a Friend, whom I esteemed almost as many Years as you; poor *Fenton*. He died at *East-Hamstead*, of Indolence and Inactivity; let it not be your Fate, but use Exercise. I hope the Duchess^a will take Care of you in this Respect, and either make you gallop after her, or teize you enough at Home to serve instead of Exercise Abroad. Mrs. *Howard* is so concerned about you, and so angry at me for not writing to you, and at Mrs. *Blount* for not doing the same, that I am piqued with Jealousy and Envy at you, and hate you as much as if you had a great Place at Court; which you will confess a proper Cause of Envy and Hatred, in any Poet militant, or unpension'd. But to set Matters even, I own I love you; and own, I am, as I ever was, and just as I ever shall be,

Your, &c.

^a Of Queensbury:

L E T

L E T T E R X V I.

DEAR SIR,

O^r. 6, 1727.

I HAVE many Years ago magnify'd in my own Mind, and repeated to you, a ninth Beatitude, added to the eighth in the Scripture ; " Blessed is he " who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed." I could find in my Heart to congratulate you on this happy Dismission from all Court-Dependence ; I dare say I shall find you the better and the honefter Man for it, many Years hence : very probably the healthfuller, and the chearfuller into the Bargain. You are happily rid of many cursed Ceremonies, as well as of many ill, and vicious Habits, of which few or no Men escape the Infection, who are hackney'd and trammelled in the Ways of a Court. Princes indeed, and Peers (the Lackies of Princes) and Ladies (the Fools of Peers) will smile on you the less ; but Men of Worth, and real Friends, will look on you the better. There is a Thing, the only Thing which Kings and Queens cannot give you (for they have it not to give) Liberty, and which is worth all they have ; which, as yet, I thank God, *Englishmen* need not ask from their Hands. You will enjoy that, and your own Integrity, and the satisfactory Consciousness of having *not* merited such Graces from Courts as are bestow'd only on the Mean, Servile, Flattering, Interested, and Undeserving. The only Steps to the Favour of the Great are such Complacences, such Compliances, such distant Decorums, as elude them in their Vanities, or engage them in their Passions. He is their greatest Favourite who is the falsest : and when a Man by such vile Gradations, arrive at the Heights of Grandeur and Power, he is then at best but in a Circumstance to be hated, and in a Condition to be hanged, for serving their Ends : So many a Minister has found it !

I believe you did not want Advice in the Letter you sent by my Lord *Grantham* ; I presume you writ

it not, without: and you could not have better, if I guess right at the Person who agreed to your doing it, in Respect to any Decency you ought to observe: for I take that Person to be a perfect Judge of Decencies and Forms. I am not without Fears even on that Person's Account: I think it a bad Omen: but what have I to do with Court-Omens:—Dear *Gay*, adieu, I can only add a plain uncourtly Speech: While you are no Body's Servant, you may be any one's Friend, and, as such, I embrace you, in all Conditions of Life. While I have a Shilling, you shall have Sixpence, nay Eight-pence, if I can contrive to live upon a Groat. I am faithfully

Your, &c.

LET.

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from M R. G A Y.

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L E T T E R X V I I .

FROM MR. GAY TO MR. POPE.

Aug. 2, 1728.

I T was two or three Weeks ago that I writ you a Letter ; I might indeed have done it sooner ; I thought of you every Post-Day upon that Account, and every other Day upon some Account or other. I must beg you to give Mrs. B. my sincere Thanks for her kind Way of thinking of me, which I have heard of more than once from our Friend at Court, who seem'd in the Letter she writ to be in high Health and Spirits. Considering the Multiplicity of Pleasures and Delights that one is over-run with in those Places, I wonder how any Body hath Health and Spirits enough to support them : I am heartily glad she has, and whenever I hear so, I find it contributes to mine. You see I am not free from Dependance, tho' I have less Attendance than I had formerly ; for a great deal of my own Welfare still depends upon hers. Is the Widow's House to be disposed of yet ? I have not given up my Pretensions to the Dean ; if it was to be parted with, I wish one of us had it ; I hope you wish so too, and that Mrs. Blount and Mrs. Howard wish the same, and for the very same Reason that I wish it. All I could hear of you of late hath been Advertisements in News-papers, by which one would think that the Race of *Curls* was multiplied ; and, by the Indignation such Fellows show against you, that you have more Merit than any Body alive could have. *Homer* himself hath not been worse us'd by the *French*. I am to tell you that the *Duchess* makes you her Compliments, and is always inclined to like any Thing you do ; that Mr. *Congreve* admires, with me, your Fortitude : and loves, not envies, your Performance, for we are not Dunces, Adieu.

April 18, 1732.

IF my Friendship were as effectual as it is sincere, you would be one of those People who would be vastly advantaged and enriched by it. I ever honoured those Popes who were most famous for Nepotism, 'tis a Sign that the old Fellows loved Somebody, which is not usual in such advanced Years. And I now honour Sir *Robert Walpole* for his extensive Bounty and Goodness to his private Friends and Relations. But it vexes me to the Heart when I reflect, that my Friendship is so much less effectual than theirs; nay so utterly useless that it cannot give you any Thing, not even a Dinner at this Distance, nor help the General, whom I greatly love, to catch one Fish. My only Consolation is to think you happier than myself, and to begin to envy you, which is next to hating you (an excellent Remedy for Love.) How comes it that Providence has been so unkind to me (who am a greater Object of Compassion than any fat Man alive) that I am forced to drink Wine, while you riot in Water, prepared with Oranges by the Hands of the Duchefs of *Queensbury*? that I am condemned to live by a Highway Side, like an old Patriarch, receiving all Guests, where my Portico (as *Virgil* has it)

Mane salutantur totis vomit ædibus undam.

while you are wrapt into the *Idalian* Grove, sprinkled with Rose-Water; and live in Burrage, Balm, and Burnet up to the Chin, with the Duchefs of *Queensbury*? that I am doom'd to the Drudgery of dining at Court with the Ladies in Waiting at *Windsor*, while you are happily banished with the Duchefs of *Queensbury*? So partial is Fortune in her Dispensations! for I deserved ten Times more to be banished than you, and I know some Ladies who merit it better than even her Grace. After this I must not name any,

any, who dare do so much for you as to send you their Services. But one there is, who exhorts me often to write to you, I suppose, to prevent or excuse her not doing it herself; she seems (for that is all I'll say for a Courtier) to wish you mighty well. Another, who is no Courtier, frequently mentions you, and does certainly wish you well—I fancy, after all, they both do so.

I writ to Mr. *Fortescue*, and told him the Pains you took to see him. The Dean is well; I have had many Accounts of him from *Irisb* Evidence, but only two Letters these four Months, in both which you are mentioned kindly: he is in the North of *Ireland*, doing I know not what, with I know not whom. Mr. *Cleland* always speaks of you: he is at *Tunbridge*, wondering at the superior Carnivoracity of our Friend; he plays now with the old Duchess, nay dines with her, after she has won all his Money. Other News I know not, but that Counsellor *Bickford* has hurt himself, and has the strongest Walking-staff I ever saw. He intends speedily to make you a Visit with it at *Aimsbury*. I am my Lord Duke's, my Lady Duchess's, Mr. *Dormer's*, General *Dormer's*, and

Your, &c.

H 4

L E T.

Sept. 11, 1730.

IMAY with great Truth return your Speech, that I think of you daily; oftener indeed than is consistent with the Character of a reasonable Man, who is rather to make himself easy with the Things and Men that are about him, than uneasy for those which he wants. And you, whose Absence is in a Manner perpetual to me, ought rather to be remembered as a good Man gone, than breathed after as one living. You are taken from us here to be laid up in a more blessed State with Spirits of a higher Kind: such I reckon his Grace and her Grace, since their Banishment from an earthly Court to a heavenly one, in each other and their Friends; for, I conclude, none but true Friends will consort or associate with them afterwards. I can't but look upon myself (so unworthy as a Man of *Twitnam* seems, to be rank'd with such rectify'd and sublimated Beings as you) as a separated Spirit too from Courts and courtly Fopperies. But, I own, not altogether so divested of terrene Matter, not altogether so spiritualized, as to be worthy Admission to your Depths of Retirement and Contentment. I am tugg'd back to the World and its Regards too often; and no Wonder, when my Retreat is but ten Miles from the Capital. I am within Ear-shot of Reports, within the Vortex of Lies and Censures. I hear sometimes of the Lampooners of Beauty, the Calumniators of Virtue, the Jokers at Reason and Religion. I presume these are Creatures and Things as unknown to you, as we of this dirty Orb are to the Inhabitants of the Planet *Jupiter*; except a few fervent Prayers reach you on the Wings of the Post, from two or three of your zealous Votaries at this Distance; as one Mrs. *H.* who lifts up her Heart now and then to you, from the midst of the Colluvies and Sink of human Greatness at *W—r*; one Mrs. *B.* that fancies you may remember her while you lived in
your

your mortal and too transitory State at *Petersham*; one Lord *B.* who admit'd the Duchess before she grew a Goddess; and a few others.

To descend now to tell you what are our Wants, our Complaints, and our Miseries here; I must seriously say, the Loss of any one good Woman is too great to be borne easily: and poor Mrs. *Rollinson*, tho' a private Woman, was such. Her Husband is gone into *Oxfordshire* very melancholy, and thence to the *Bath*, to live on, for such is our Fate, and Duty. Adieu. Write to me as often as you will, and (to encourage you) I will write as seldom as if you did not. Believe me

Your, &c.

H 5

L E T -

LETTER XX.

DEAR SIR,

O^r. 1, 1730.

I AM something like the Sun at this Season, withdrawing from the World, but meaning it mighty well, and resolving to shine whenever I can again. But I fear the Clouds of a long Winter will overcome me to such a Degree, that any Body will take a Farthing Candle for a better Guide, and more serviceable Companion. My Friends may remember my brighter Days, but will think (like the *Irishman*) that the Moon is a better Thing when once I am gone. I don't say this with any Allusion to my poetical Capacity as a Son of *Apollo*, but in my companionable one (if you'll suffer me to use a Phrase of the Earl of *Clarendon's*) for I shall see or be seen by few of you this Winter. I am grown too faint to do any Good, or to give any Pleasure. I not only, as *Dryden* finely says, feel my Notes decay as a Poet, but feel my Spirits flag as a Companion, and shall return again to where I first began, my Books. I have been putting my Library in Order, and enlarging the Chimney in it, with equal Intention to warm my Mind and Body (if I can) to some Life. A Friend (a Woman Friend, God help me !) with whom I have spent three or four Hours a Day these fifteen Years, advised me to pass more Time in my Studies: I reflected, she must have found some Reason for this Admonition, and concluded she would complete all her Kindnesses to me by returning me to the Employment I am fittest for; Conversation with the Dead, the Old, and the Worm-eaten.

Judge therefore if I might not treat you as a beautify'd Spirit, comparing your Life with my stupid State. For as to my living at *Windsor* with the Ladies, &c. it is all a Dream; I was there but two Nights, and all the Day out of that Company. I shall certainly make as little Court to others as they do to me; and that will be none at all. My Fair-weather Friends

Friends of the Summer are going away for *London*, and I shall see them and the Butterflies together, if I live till next Year; which I would not desire to do, if it were only for their Sakes. But we that are Writers, ought to love Posterity, that Posterity may love us; and I would willingly live to see the Children of the present Race, merely in Hope they may be a little wiser than their Parents.

I am, &c.

L. B. T.

LETTER XXI.

IT is true, that I write to you very seldom, and have no Pretence of writing which satisfies me, because I have nothing to say that can give you much Pleasure: only merely that I am in Being, which in Truth is of little Consequence to one from whose Conversation I am cut off by such Accidents or Engagements as separate us. I continue, and ever shall, to wish you all Good and Happiness: I wish that some lucky Event might set you in a State of Ease and Independency all at once; and that I might live to see you as happy, as this silly World and Fortune can make any one. Are we never to live together more, as once we did? I find my Life ebbing apace, and my Affections strengthening as my Age encreases; not that I am worse, but better, in my Health than last Winter; but my Mind finds no Amendment nor Improvement, nor Support to lean upon, from those about me: and so I find myself leaving the World as fast as it leaves me. Companions I have enough, Friends few, and those too warm in the Concerns of the World, for me to bear Pace with; or else so divided from me, that they are but like the Dead, whose Remembrance I hold in Honour. Nature, Temper, and Habit from my Youth made me have but one strong Desire; all other Ambitions, my Person, Education, Constitution, Religion, &c. conspired to remove far from me. That Desire was, to fix and preserve a few lasting, dependable Friendships: and the Accidents which have disappointed me in it, have put a Period to all my Aims. So I am sunk into an Idleness, which makes me neither care nor labour to be noticed by the rest of Mankind; I propose no Rewards to myself, and why should I take any Sort of Pains?

here

here I sit and sleep, and probably here I shall sleep till I sleep for ever, like the old Man of *Verona*. I hear of what passes in the busy World with so little Attention, that I forget it the next Day: and as to the learned World, there is nothing passes in it. I have no more to add, but that I am with the same Truth as ever,

Your, &c.

L E T

O^r. 23, 1730.

YOUR Letter is a very kind one, but I can't say so pleasing to me as many of yours have been, through the Account you give of the Dejection of your Spirits. I wish the too constant Use of Water does not contribute to it; I find Dr. *Arbuthnot* and another very knowing Physician of that Opinion. I also wish you were not so totally immers'd in the Country; I hope your Return to Town will be a prevalent Remedy against the Evil of too much Recollection. I wish it partly for my own Sake. We have lived little together of late, and we want to be Physicians for one another. It is a Remedy that agreed very well with us both, for many Years, and I fancy our Constitution would mend upon the old Medicine of *Studiorum Similitudo*, &c. We both of us want whetting; there are several here who will do you that good Office, merely for the Love of Wit, which seems to be bidding the Town a long and last adieu. I can tell you of no one Thing worth reading, or seeing; the whole Age seems resolved to justify the *Dunciad*, and it may stand for a public Epitaph or monumental Inscription, like that of *Thermopylae*, on a whole People perish'd! There may indeed be a Wooden Image or two of Poetry set up, to preserve the Memory that there once were Bards in *Britain*; and (like the Giants in *Guildhall*) show the Bulk and bad Taste of our Ancestors: At present the poor Laureat ^a and *Stephen Duck* serve for this Purpose; a drunken Sot of a *Parson* holds forth the Emblem of *Inspiration*, and an honest industrious *Thresher* not unaptly represents *Pains and Labour*. I hope this Phenomenon of *Wiltshire* has appeared at *Amesbury*, or the *Duchess* will be thought insensible to all bright Qualities and exalted Genius's, in Court and Country alike. But he is a harmless Man, and therefore I am glad.

This is all the News talk'd of at Court, but it will please you better to hear that Mrs. *Howard* talks of you, tho' not in the same Breath with the Thresher, as they do of me. By the Way, have you seen or conversed with Mr. *Chubb*, who is a wonderful Phænomonon of *Wiltshire*? I have read through his whole Volume with Admiration of the Writer; tho' not always with Approbation of the Doctrine. I have past just three Days in *London* in four Months, two at *Wind-
sor*, half an one at *Richmond*, and have not taken one Excursion into in any other Country. Judge now whether I can live in my Library, adieu. Live mindful of one of your first Friends, who will be so till the last. Mrs. *Blount* deserves your Remembrance, for she never forgets you, and wants nothing of being a Friend ^c.

I beg the Duke's and her Grace's Acceptance of my Services: the Contentment you express in their Company pleases me, tho' it be the Bar to my own, in dividing you from us. I am ever very truly

Your, &c.

^b This was his *Quarto* Volume, written before he had given any Signs of those Extravagancies, which have since rendered his Name so noted. As the Court set up Mr. *Duck* for the Rival of Mr. *Pope*, the City at the same Time consider'd *Chubb*, as one who would eclipse *Locke*. The Modesty of the Court-Poet kept him sober in the very intoxicating Situation, while the Vanity of this new-fangled Philosopher assisted his sage Admirers in turning his Head.

^c Alluding to those Lines in the Epistle on the Characters of Women.

"With ev'ry pleasing, ev'ry prudent Part;
"Say, what can *Chloe* want?—She wants a Heart.

L E T.

LETTER XXIII.

O^r. 2, 1732.

SIR *Clem. Cottrell* tells me you will shortly come to Town. We begin to want Comfort in a few Friends about us, while the Winds whistle, and the Waters roar. The Sun gives us a parting Look, but 'tis but a cold one; we are ready to change those distant Favours of a lofty Beauty, for a gross material Fire that warms and comforts more. I wish you could be here till your Family come to Town: you'll live more innocently, and kill fewer harmless Creatures, nay none, except by your proper Deputy, the Butcher. It is fit for Conscience Sake, that you should come to Town, and that the Duchess should stay in the Country, where no Innocents of another Species may suffer by her. I hope she never goes to Church: the Duke should lock you both up, and less Harm would be done. I advise you to make Man your Game, hunt and beat about here for Coxcombs, and truss up Rogues in Satire: I fancy they'll turn to a good Account, if you can produce them fresh, or make them keep: and their Relations will come, and buy their Bodies of you.

The Death of *Wilks* leaves *Cibber* without a Colleague, absolute and perpetual Dictator of the Stage, tho' indeed while he lived he was but as *Bibulus* to *Cæsar*. However, Ambition finds something to be gratify'd with in a meer Name; or else, God have Mercy upon poor Ambition! Here is a dead Vacation at present, no Politics at Court, no Trade in Town, nothing stirring but Poetry. Every Man, and every Boy, is writing Verses on the Royal Hermitage: I hear the Queen is at a Loss which to prefer, but for my own Part, I like none so well as Mr. *Poyntz's* in *Latin*. You would oblige my Lady *Suffolk* if you tried your Muse on this Occasion. I am sure I would do as much for the Duchess of *Queensbury*, if she desired it.

it. Several of your Friends assure me it is expected from you: one should not bear in Mind, all one's Life, any little Indignity one receives from a Court; and therefore I am in Hopes, neither her Grace will hinder you, nor you decline it.

The Volume of Miscellanies is just published, which concludes all our Fooleries of that Kind. All your Friends remember you, and, I assure you, no one more than

Your, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXIV.

FROM MR. GAY TO MR. POPE.

Oct. 7, 1732.

I AM at last returned from my *Somersetshire* Expedition, but since my Return I cannot so much boast of my Health as before I went, for I am frequently out of order with my colical Complaints, so as make me uneasy and dispirited, tho' not to any violent Degree. The Reception we met with, and the little Excursions we made, were every Way agreeable. I think the Country abounds with beautiful Prospects. Sir *William Wyndham* is at present amusing himself with some real Improvements, and a great many visionary Castles. We are often entertained with Sea Views and Sea Fish, and were at some Places in the Neighbourhood, among which, I was mightily pleased with *Dunster-Castle* near *Minehead*. It stands upon a great Eminence, and hath a Prospect of that Town, with an extensive View of the *Bristol* Channel, in which are seen two small Islands called the *Steep Holms* and *Flat Holms*, and on t'other Side we could plainly distinguish the Divisions of Fields in the *Welsh* Coast. All this Journey I perform'd on Horseback, and I am very much disappointed that at present I feel myself so little the better for it. I have indeed follow'd Riding and Exercise for three Months successively, and really think I was as well without it; so that I begin to fear the Illness I have so long and so often complain'd of, is inherent in my Constitution, and that I have nothing for it but Patience^a.

As to your Advice about writing Panegyric, 'tis what I have not frequently done. I have indeed done it sometimes against my Judgment and Inclinations,

^a Mr. Gay died the November following at the Duke of Queensbury's House in London, aged 46 Years. P.

tions, and I heartily repent of it. And, at present, as I have no Desire of Reward, and see no just Reason of Praise, I think I had better let it alone. There are Flatterers good enough to be found, and I would not interfere with any Gentleman's Profession. I have seen no Verses on these sublime Occasions; so that I have no Emulation: Let the Patrons enjoy the Authors, and the Authors their Patrons, for I know myself unworthy.

I am, &c.

LET-

MR. CLELAND TO MR. GAY.

Decemb. 16, 1731.

I AM astonish'd at the Complaints occasioned by a late Epistle to the Earl of *Burlington*; and I should be afflict'd were there the least just Ground for them. Had the Writer attack'd Vice at a Time when it is not only tolerated but triumphant, and so far from being conceal'd as a Defect, that it is proclaimed with Ostentation as a Merit; I should have been apprehensive of the Consequence: Had he satyrized Gamesters of a hundred thousand Pounds Fortune, acquir'd by such Methods as are in daily Practice, and almost universally encouraged: had he over warmly defended the Religion of his Country, against such Books as come from every Press, are publickly vend'd in every Shop, and greedily bought by almost every Rank of Men; or had he called our excellent weekly Writers by the same Names which they openly bestow on the greatest Men in the Ministry, and out of the Ministry, for which they all are unpunished, and most rewarded: In any of these Cases, indeed, I might have judg'd him too presumptuous, and perhaps have trembled for his Rashness.

I could not but hope better from this small and modest Epistle, which attacks no Vice whatsoever; which deals only in Folly, and not Folly in general, but a single Species of it; that only Branch, for the opposite Excellency to which, the noble Lord to whom it is written must necessarily be celebrated. I fancied it might escape Censure, especially seeing how tenderly

This was written by the same Hand that wrote the Letter to the Publisher, prefixed to the Dunciad: and what Hand that was, no one who reads this Collection of Letters can be at a Loss to ascertain.

ly these Follies are treated, and really less excused than apologized for.

*Yet hence the Poor are cloath'd, the Hungry fed,
Health to himself, and to his Infants Bread
The Lab'rer bears.*

Is this such a Crime, that to impute it to a Man must be a grievous Offence? 'Tis an innocent Folly, and much more beneficent than the Want of it; for ill Taste employs more Hands, and diffuses Expence more than a good one. Is it a moral Defect? No, it is but a natural one, a Want of Taste. It is what the best good Man living may be liable to. The worthiest Peer may live exemplarily in an ill-favoured House, and the best reputed Citizen be pleased with a vile Garden. I thought (I say) the Author had the common Liberty to observe a Defect, and to compliment a Friend for a Quality that distinguishes him: which I know not how any Quality should do, if we were not to remark that it was wanting in others.

But they say, the Satire is personal. I thought it could not be so, because all its Reflections are on Things. His Reflections are not on the Man, but his House, Garden, &c. Nay, he respects (as one may say) the Persons of the Gladiator, the Nile, and the Triton: he is only sorry to see them (as he might be to see any of his Friends) ridiculous by being in the wrong Place, and in bad Company. Some fancy, that to say a Thing is personal, is the same as to say it is unjust, not considering, that nothing can be just that is not personal. I am afraid that "all such Writings and Discourses as touch no Man, will mend no Man." The Good-natur'd, indeed, are apt to be alarmed at any Thing like Satire; and the Guilty readily concur with the Weak for a plain Reason, because the Vicious look upon Folly as their Frontier:

Jam proximus ardet
Ucalegon.

No

No wonder those who know Ridicule belongs to them, find an inward Consolation in moving it from themselves as far as they can; and it is never so far as when they can get it fixed on the best Characters. No wonder those who are Food for Satirists should rail at them as Creatures of Prey; every Beast born for our Use would be ready to call a Man so.

I know no Remedy, unless People in our Age would as little frequent the Theatres, as they begin to do the Churches; unless Comedy were forsaken, Satire silent, and every Man left to do what seems good in his own Eyes, as if there were no King, no Priest, no Poet, in *Israel*.

But I find myself obliged to touch a Point, on which I must be more serious; it well deserves I should: I mean the malicious Application of the Character of *Timon*, which, I will boldly say, they would impute to the Person the most different in the World from a Man-hater, to the Person whose Taste and Encouragement of Wit have often been shewn in the rightest Place. The Author of that Epistle must certainly think so, if he has the same Opinion of his own Merit as Authors generally have; for he has been distinguished by this very Person.

Why, in God's Name, must a Portrait, apparently collected from twenty different Men, be applied to one only? Has it his Eye? no, it is very unlike. Has it his Nose or Mouth? no, they are totally differing. What then, I beseech you? Why, it has the Mole on his Chin. Very well; but must the Picture therefore be his, and has no other Man that Blemish?

Could there be a more melancholy Instance how much the Taste of the Public is vitiated, and turns the most salutary and seasonable Physic into Poison, than if amidst the Blaze of a thousand bright Qualities in a great Man; they should only remark there is a Shadow about him; as what Eminence is without? I am confident the Author was incapable of imputing

putting any such to one, whose whole Life (to use his own Expression in Print of him) is a *continued Series of good and generous Actions.*

I know no Man who would be more concerned, if he gave the least Pain or Offence to any innocent Person; and none who would be less concerned, if the Satire were challenged by any one at whom he would really aim at. If ever that happens, I dare engage he will own it, with all the Freedom of one whose Censures are just, and who sets his Name to them.

particular Warrant of your Lordship in this
private Man who is innocent.
it was not the first that deliver'd this from you;
I said I had the Honour to be your Friend, I could
not but be your Friend like a Fool; but like the Wise
Man I had a Reason, even from those who knew
him not, long to promote a Report, which in Regard
to that noble Person, was impertinent; in Regard
to me, villainous. Yet I had no great Cause to
wonder, that a Character belonging to twenty should
be applied to one; since, by that Means, nineteen
would escape the Ridicule.

I was too well content with my Knowledge of that
noble Person's Opinion in this Affair to trouble
Public about it. But these Malice and Mistrust
long a dying, I have taken the Opportunity of a
Publication to declare his Belief, not only of my
Innocence, but of their Malignity; of the former of
which my own Heart is as conscious, as I fear, some
of theirs may be of the latter. His Humanity feels
a Concern for the Injury done to me, while his
Generosity of Mind can bear with Indifference the In-
jury offered to himself.

LET-

However, my Lord, I own, that Critics of this
Sort can incline me, nay half incline me to write
no more: That would be making the Town a Com-
pliment which I think, it deserves; and which I am
I am

A Relation to the Letter the Duke of Grafton wrote to
Mr. Pope on this Occasion. P.

LETTER XXVI.

TO THE EARL OF BURLINGTON.

MY LORD,

March 7, 1731.

THE Clamour rais'd about my Epistle to you could not give me so much Pain, as I received Pleasure in seeing the general Zeal of the World in the Cause of a Great Man who is beneficent, and the particular Warmth of your Lordship in that of a private Man who is innocent.

It was not the Poem that deserv'd this from you; for as I had the Honour to be your Friend, I could not treat you quite like a Poet: but sure the Writer deserved more Candour, even from those who knew him not, than to promote a Report, which in Regard to that noble Person, was impertinent; in Regard to me, villainous. Yet I had no great Cause to wonder, that a Character belonging to twenty should be applied to one; since, by that Means, nineteen would escape the Ridicule.

I was too well content with my Knowledge of that noble Person's Opinion in this Affair to trouble the Public about it. But since Malice and Mistake are so long a dying, I have taken the Opportunity of a third Edition to declare his Belief, not only of my Innocence, but of their Malignity; of the former of which my own Heart is as conscious, as, I fear, some of theirs must be of the latter. His Humanity feels a Concern for the Injury done to me, while his Greatness of Mind can bear with Indifference the Insult offered to himself^a.

However, my Lord, I own, that Critics of this Sort can intimidate me, nay half incline me to write no more: That would be making the Town a Compliment which I think, it deserves; and which some, I am

^a Alludes to the Letter the Duke of Ch^s wrote to Mr. Pope on this Occasion. P.

I am sure, would take very kindly. This Way of Satire is dangerous, as long as Slander raised by Fools of the lowest Rank, can find any Countenance from those of a higher. Even from the Conduct shewn on this Occasion, I have learnt there are some who would rather be wicked than ridiculous; and therefore it may be safer to attack Vices than Follies. I will therefore leave my Betters in the quiet Possession of their Idols, their Groves, and their High-places; and change my Subject from their Pride to their Meanness, from their Vanities to their Miseries; and, as the only certain Way to avoid Misconstructions, to lessen Offence, and not to multiply ill-natured Applications, I may probably, in my next, make Use of real Names instead of fictitious ones. I am,

My Lord,

Your most affectionate, &c.

VOL. VIII:

I.

LET.

Cirencester.

IT is a true Saying, that Misfortunes alone prove one's Friendships; they show us not only that of other People for us, but our own for them. We hardly know ourselves any otherwise. I feel my being forced to this *Bath* Journey as a Misfortune; and to follow my own Welfare preferably to those I love, is indeed a new Thing to me: my Health has not usually got the better of my Tendernesses and Affections. I set out with a heavy Heart, wishing I had done this Thing the last Season; for every Day I defer it, the more I am in Danger of that Accident which I dread the most, my Mother's Death (especially should it happen while I am away.) And another Reflection pains me, that I have never, since I knew you, been so long separated from you, as I now must be. Methinks we live to be more and more Strangers, and every Year teaches you to live without me: This Absence may, I fear, make my Return less welcome and less wanted to you, than once it seem'd, even after but a Fortnight. Time ought not in Reason to diminish Friendship, when it confirms the Truth of it by Experience.

The Journey has a good deal disordered me, notwithstanding my resting Place at Lord *Bathurst's*. My Lord is too much for me, he walks, and is in Spirits all Day long; I rejoice to see him so. It is a right Distinction, that I am happier in seeing my Friends so many Degrees above me, be it in Fortune, Health, or Pleasures, than I can be in sharing either with them: for in these Sort of Enjoyments I cannot keep Pace with them, any more than I can walk with a stronger Man. I wonder to find I am a Companion for none but old Men, and forget that I am not a young Fellow myself. The worst is, that Reading
and

^a To Mrs. B.

and Writing, which I have still the greatest Relish for, are growing painful to my Eyes. But if I can preserve the good Opinion of one or two Friends, to such a Degree, as to have their Indulgence to my Weaknesses, I will not complain of Life: And if I could live to see you consult your Ease and Quiet, by becoming independent on those who will never help you to either, I doubt not of finding the latter Part of my Life pleasanter than the former, or present. My Uneasinesses of Body I can bear; my chief Uneasiness of Mind is in your Regard. You have a Temper that would make you *easy* and *beloved* (which is all the Happiness one needs to wish in this World) and content with moderate Things. All your Point is not to lose that Temper by sacrificing yourself to others, out of a mistaken Tenderness, which hurts you, and profits not them. And this you must do soon, or it will be too late: Habit will make it as hard for you to live independent, as for L— to live out of a Court.

You must excuse me for observing what I think any Defect in you: You grow too indolent, and give Things up too easily: which would be otherwise, when you found and felt yourself your own: Spirits would come in, as ill Usage went out. While you live under a Kind of perpetual Dejection and Oppression, nothing at all belongs to you, not your own *Humour*, nor your own *Sense*.

You can't conceive how much you would find Resolution rise, and Chearfulness grow upon you, if you'd once try to live independent for two or three Months. I never think tenderly of you but this comes across me, and therefore excuse my repeating it, for whenever I do not, I dissemble half that I think of you: Adieu, pray write, and be particular about your Health.

LETTER XXVIII^a.

YOUR Letter dated at nine o'Clock on *Tuesday* (Night, I suppose) has sunk me quite. Yesterday I hoped; and Yesterday I sent you a Line or two for our poor Friend *Gay*, inclos'd in a few Words to you; about twelve or one o'Clock you should have had it. I am troubled about that, tho' the present Cause of our Trouble be so much the greater^b. Indeed I want a Friend, to help me to bear it better. We want each other. I bear a hearty Share with *Mrs. Howard*, who has lost a Man of a most honest Heart; so honest an one, that I wish her Master had none less honest about him. The World after all is a little pitiful Thing, not performing any one Promise it makes us, for the future, and every Day taking away and annulling the Joys of the past. Let us comfort one another, and, if possible, study to add as much more Friendship to each other, as Death has deprived us of in him: I promise you more and more of mine, which will be the Way to deserve more and more of yours.

I purposely avoid saying more. The Subject is beyond writing upon, beyond Cure or Ease by Reason or Reflection, beyond all but one Thought, that it is the Will of God.

So will the Death of my Mother be! which now I tremble at, now resign to, now bring close to me, now set farther off: Every Day alters, turns me about, and confuses my whole Frame of Mind. Her dangerous Distemper is again returned, her Fever coming onward again, though less in Pain; for which last however I thank God.

I am unfeignedly tired of the World, and receive
nothing

^a To the same.

^b *Mr. Gay's Death, which happened in Nov. 1732, at the Duke of Queensbury's House in London, aged 46 P.*

nothing to be called a Pleasure in it, equivalent to countervail either the Death of one I have so long lived with, or of one I have so long lived for. I have nothing left but to turn my Thoughts to one Comfort; the last we usually think of, tho' the only one we should in Wisdom depend' upon, in such a disappointing Place as this. I sit in her Room, and she is always present before me, but when I sleep. I wonder I am so well: I have shed many Tears, but now I weep at nothing. I would above all Things see you, and think it would comfort you to see me so equal-tempered and so quiet. But pray dine here; you may, and she know nothing of it, for she dozes much, and we tell her of no earthly Thing, lest it run in her Mind, which often Trifles have done. If Mr. *Bethel* had Time, I wish he were your Companion hither. Be as much as you can with each other: Be assured I love you both, and be farther assured, that Friendship will encrease as I live on.

I 3

LET-

July 12, 1723.

I ASSURE you unfeignedly any Memorial of your Good nature and Friendliness is most welcome to me, who know those Tenders of Affection from you are not like the common Traffick of Compliments and Professions, which most People only give that they may receive; and is at best a Commerce of Vanity, if not of Falshood. I am happy in not immediately wanting the Sort of good Offices you offer: but if I did want them, I should not think myself unhappy in receiving them at your Hands: this really is some Compliment, for I would rather most Men would do me a small Injury, than a Kindness. I know your Humanity, and, allow me to say, I love and value you for it: 'Tis a much better Ground of Love and Value, than all the Qualities I see the World so fond of: they generally admire in the wrong Place, and generally most admire the Things they don't comprehend, or the Things they can never be the better for. Very few can receive Pleasure or Advantage from Wit which they seldom taste, or Learning which they seldom understand, much less from the Quality, high Birth, or shining Circumstances of those to whom they profess Esteem, and who will always remember how much they are their Inferiors. But Humanity and sociable Virtues are what every Creature wants every Day, and still wants more the longer he lives, and most the very Moment he dies. It is ill Travelling either in a Ditch or on a Terras; we should walk in the common Way, where others are continually passing on the same Level, to make the Journey of Life supportable by bearing one another Company in the same Circumstances.—Let me know how I may convey over the *Odyssseys* for your Amusement in your Journey, that you may compare your own Travels

Travels with those of *Ulysses*: I am sure yours are undertaken upon a more disinterested, and therefore a more heroic Motive. Far be the Omen from you, of returning as he did, alone, without saving a Friend.

There is lately printed a Book ^a wherein all human Virtue is reduced to one Test, that of Truth, and branched out in every Instance of our Duty to God and Man. If you have not seen it, you must, and I will send it together with the *Odyssey*. The very Women read it, and pretend to be charmed with that Beauty which they generally think the least of. They make as much ado about *Truth*, since this Book appear'd, as they did about *Health* when Dr. *Cheyne's* came out; and will doubtless be as constant in the Pursuit of one, as of the other. Adieu.

^a Mr. Wollaston's excellent Book of the Religion of Nature delineated. *The Queen was fond of it, and that made the Reading of it, and the Talking of it fashionable.*

Aug. 9, 1726.

I NEVER am unmindful of those I think so well of as yourself; their Number is not so great as to confound one's Memory. Nor ought you to decline writing to me upon an Imagination, that I am much employ'd by other People. For tho' my House is like the House of a Patriarch of old, standing by the Highway Side, and receiving all Travellers, nevertheless I seldom go to Bed without the Reflection, that one's chief Business is to be really at Home: and I agree with you in your Opinion of Company, Amusements, and all the silly Things which Mankind would fain make Pleasure of when in Truth they are Labour and Sorrow.

I condole with you on the Death of your Relation, the E. of C. as on the Fate of a mortal Man: Esteem I never had for him, but Concern and Humanity I had: the latter was due to the Infirmary of his last Period, tho' the former was not due to the triumphant and vain Part of his Course. He certainly knew himself best at last, and knew best the little Value of others, whose Neglect of him, whom they so grossly followed and flattered in the former Scene of his Life, shew'd them as worthless as they could imagine him to be, were he all that his worst Enemies believed of him: For my own Part, I am sorry for his Death, and wish he had liv'd long enough to see so much of the Faithlessness of the World, as to have been above the mad Ambition of governing such Wretches as he must have found it to be composed of.

Though you could have no great Value for this Great Man, yet Acquaintance itself, the Custom of seeing the Face, or entering under the Roof, of one that walks along with us in the common Way of the

World,

World, is enough to create a Wish at least for his being above Ground, and a Degree of Uneasiness at his Removal. 'Tis the Loss of an Object familiar to us: I should hardly care to have an old Post pulled up, that I remembered ever since I was a Child. And add to this the Reflection (in the Case of such as were not the best of their Species) what their Condition in another Life may be, it is yet a more important Motive for our Concern and Compassion. To say the Truth, either in the Case of Death or Life, almost every Body and every Thing is a Cause or Object for Humanity, even Prosperity itself, and Health itself; so many weak, pitiful Incidentals attend on them.

I am sorry any Relation of yours is ill, whoever it be, for you don't name the Person. But I conclude it is one of those to whose Houses, you tell me, you are going, for I know no Invitation with you is so strong as when any one is in Distress, or in Want of your Assistance: The strongest Proof in the World of this, was your Attendance on the late Earl. I have been very melancholy for the Loss of Mr. *Blount*. Whoever has any Portion of Good-nature will suffer on these Occasions; but a good Mind rewards its own Sufferings. I hope to trouble you as little as possible, if it be my Fate to go before you. I am of old *Ennius's* Mind, *Nemo me decoret lachrymis*.—I am but a *Lodger* here: this is not an abiding City, I am only to stay out my Lease; for what has Perpetuity and mortal Man to do with each other? But I could be glad you could take up with an Inn at *Twittenham*, as long I am Host of it: if not, I would take up freely with any Inn of yours—Adieu, dear Sir: Let us while away this Life: and (if we can) meet in another.

June 24, 1727.

YOU are too humane and considerate (Things few People can be charged with.) Do not say you will not expect Letters from me; upon my Word I can no more forbear writing sometimes to you, than thinking of you. I know the World too well, not to value you who are an Example of acting, living, and thinking, above it, and contrary to it.

I thank God for my Mother's unexpected Recovery, tho' my Hope can rise no higher than from Reprieve to Reprieve, the small Addition of a few Days to the many she has already seen. Yet so short and transitory as this Light is, it is all I have to warm or shine upon me; and when it is out, there is nothing else that will live for me, or consume itself in my Service. But I would have you think this is not the chief Motive of my Concern about her: Gratitude is a cheap Virtue, one may pay it very punctually, for it costs us nothing, but our Memory of the Good done. And I owe her more Good, than ever I can pay, or she at this Age receive, if I could. I do not think the Tranquillity of the Mind ought to be disturbed for many Things in this World: but those Offices that are necessary Duties, either to our Friends or ourselves, will hardly prove any Breach of it; and as much as they take away from our Indolence and Ease of Body, will contribute to our Peace and Quiet of Mind by the Content they give. They often afford the highest Pleasure; and those who do not feel that, will hardly ever find another to match it, let them love themselves ever so dearly. At the same Time it must be owned, one meets with cruel Disappointments in seeing so often the best Endeavours ineffectual to make others happy, and very often (what is most cruel of all) through their own Means ^a.

But

^a See Letter xxviii. from Cirencester,

But still, I affirm, those very Disappointments of a virtuous Man are greater Pleasures, than the utmost Gratifications and Successes of a mere Self-lover.

The great and sudden Event which has just now happened ^b, puts the whole World (I mean this whole World) into a new State: The only Use I have, shall; or wish to make of it, is to observe the Disparity of Men from themselves in a Week's Time: the desultory leaving and catching of new Motions, new Modes, and new Measures: and that strange Spirit and Life, with which Men broken and disappointed resume their Hopes, their Solicitations, their Ambitions! It would be worth your while as a Philosopher, to be busy in these Observations, and to come hither to see the Fury and Bustle of the Bees this hot Season, without coming so near as to be stung by them.

Your, &c.

^b *The Death of King George the first, which happened the 11th of June, 1727.*

L E T

June 17, 1728.

AFTER the publishing my Boyish Letters to Mr. Cromwell, you will not wonder if I should forswear writing a Letter again while I live; since I do not correspond with a Friend upon the Terms of any other free Subject of this Kingdom. But to you I can never be silent, or reserved; and, I am sure, my Opinion of your Heart is such, that I could open mine to you in no Manner which I could fear the whole World should know. I could publish my own Heart too, I will venture to say, for any Mischief or Malice there is in it: but a little too much Folly or Weakness might (I fear) appear, to make such a Spectacle either instructive or agreeable to others.

I am reduced to beg of all my Acquaintance to secure me from the like ill Usage for the future, by returning me any Letters of mine which they may have preserved; that I may not be hurt, after my Death, by that which was the Happiness of my Life, their Partiality and Affection to me.

I have nothing of myself to tell you, only that I have but indifferent Health. I have not made a Visit to London: Curiosity and the Love of Dissipation die apace in me. I am not glad nor sorry for it, but I am very sorry for those who have nothing else to live on.

I have read much, but writ no more. I have small Hopes of doing Good, no Vanity in Writing, and little Ambition to please a World not very candid or deserving. If I can preserve the good Opinion of a few Friends, it is all I can expect, considering how little Good I can do even to them to merit it. Few People have your Candour, or are so willing to think well of another from whom they receive no Benefit, and gratify no Vanity. But of all the soft Sensations,

the

the greatest Pleasure is to give and receive mutual Trust. It is by Belief and firm Hope, that Men are made happy in this Life, as well as in the other. My Confidence in your good Opinion, and Dependence upon that of one or two more, is the chief cordial Drop I taste, amidst the Insipid, the Disagreeable, the Cloying, or the Dead-sweet, which are the common Draughts of Life. Some Pleasures are too pert, as well as others too flat, to be relish'd long: and Vivacity in some Cases is worse than Dulness. Therefore indeed for many Years I have not chosen my Companions for any of the Qualities in Fashion, but almost entirely for that which is the most out-of-fashion, Sincerity. Before I am aware of it, I am making your Panegyric, and perhaps my own too, for next to possessing the best Qualities, is the esteeming and distinguishing those who possess them. I truly love and value you, and so I stop short.

L E T.

LETTER XXXIII.

TO THE EARL OF PETERBOROUGH.

MY LORD,

Aug. 24, 1728.

I PRESUME you may before this Time be returned, from the Contemplation of many Beauties, Animal and Vegetable, in Gardens; and possibly some rational, in Ladies; to the better Enjoyment of your own at *Bevis-Mount*. I hope, and believe, all you have seen will only contribute to it. I am not so fond of making Compliments to Ladies as I was twenty Years ago, or I would say there are some very reasonable, and one in particular there. I think you happy, my Lord, in being at least half the Year almost as much your own Master as I am mine the whole Year: and with all the disadvantageous Incumbrances of Quality, Parts, and Honour, as mere a Gardener, Loiterer, and Labourer, as he who never had Titles, or from whom they are taken. I have an Eye in the last of these glorious Appellations to the Style of a Lord degraded or attainted: methinks they give him a better Title than they deprive him of, in calling him Labourer: *Agricultura*, says *Tully*, *proxima Sapientiæ*, which is more than can be said, by most modern Nobility, of Grace or Right Honourable, which are often *proxima Stultitiæ*. The Great Turk, you know, is often a Gardener, or of a meaner Trade: and are there not (my Lord) some Circumstances in which you would resemble the Great Turk? The two Paradises are not ill connected, of Gardens and Gallantry; and some there are (not to name my Lord *B.*) who pretend they are both to be had, even in this Life, without turning Musselmén.

We have as little Politics here within a few Miles of the Court (nay perhaps at the Court) as you at *Southampton*; and our Ministers, I dare say, have less to do. Our weekly Histories are only full of the Feasts given to the Queen and Royal Family by their

Servants,

from SEVERAL PERSONS.

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Servants, and the long and laborious Walks her Majesty takes every Morning. Yet if the graver Historians hereafter shall be silent of this Year's Events, the Amorous and Anecdotal may make Posterity some Amends, by being furnished with the Gallantries of the Great at Home; and 'tis some Comfort, that if the Men of the next Age do not read of us, the Women may.

From the Time you have been absent, I've not been to wait on a certain great Man, thro' Modesty, through Idleness, and through Respect. But for my Comfort I fancy, that any Great Man will as soon forget one that does him no Harm, as he can one that has done him any Good. Believe me, my Lord, yours.

L E T-

LETTER XXXIV.

FROM THE EARL OF PETERBOROUGH.

I MUST confess, that in going to Lord *Cobham's* I was not led by Curiosity. I went thither to see what I had seen, and what I was sure to like.

I had the Idea of those Gardens so fixed in my Imagination by many Descriptions, that nothing surprized me: Immensity and *Van Brugh* appear in the Whole, and every Part. Your joining in your Letter Animal and Vegetable Beauty, makes me use this Expression: I confess the stately *Sacharissa* at *Stow*, but am content with my little *Amoret*.

I thought you indeed more knowing upon the Subject, and wonder at your Mistake: why will you imagine Women insensible to Praise, much less to yours? I have seen them more than once turn from their Lover to their Flatterer. — I am sure the Farmereſs at *Bevis* in her highest Mortifications, in the middle of her Lent^a, would feel Emotions of Vanity, if she knew you gave her the Character of a reasonable Woman. You have been guilty again of another Mistake, which hindered me shewing your Letter to a Friend; when you join two Ladies in the same Compliment, tho' you gave to both the Beauty of *Venus* and the Wit of *Minerva*, you would please neither.

If you had put me into the *Dunciad*, I could not have been more disposed to criticise your Letter. What Sir, do you bring it in as a Reproach, or as a Thing uncommon to a Court, to be without Politics? With Politics indeed the *Richlieus* and such Folks have brought about great Things in former Days; but what are they, Sir, who, without Policy in our Times, can make ten Treaties in a Year, and secure everlasting Peace.

I can

^a *The Countess of Peterborough, a Roman Catholic.*

I can no longer disagree with you, tho' in Jest. Oh how heartily I join with you in your Contempt for Excellency and Grace, and in your Esteem of that most noble Title, Loiterer. If I were a Man of many Plums, and a good Heathen, I would dedicate a Temple to Laziness: No Man sure could blame my Choice of such a Deity, who considers, that, when I have been Fool enough to take Pains, I always met with some wise Man able to undo my Labours.

Your, &c.

L E T.

LETTER XXXV.

YOU were in a very polemic Humour when you did me the Honour to answer my last. I always understood, like a true Controvertist, that to answer is only to cavil and quarrel: however, I forgive you, you did it (as all Polemics do) to shew your Parts. Else was it not very vexatious, to deny me to commend two Women at a Time? It is true, my Lord, you know Women as well as Men: but since you certainly love them better, why are you so uncharitable in your Opinion of them? Surely one Lady may allow another to have the Thing she herself least values, Reason, when Beauty is uncontested. *Venus* herself could allow *Minerva* to be Goddess of Wit, when *Paris* gave her the Apple (as the Fool herself thought) on a better Account. I do say that Lady *P** is a reasonable Woman; and I think, she will not take it amiss, if I should insist upon esteeming her, instead of Toasting her, like a silly Thing I could name, who is the *Venus* of these Days. I see you had forgot my Letter, or would not let her know how much I thought of her in this reasonable Way: but I have been kinder to you, and have shewn your Letter to one who will take it candidly.

But, for God's sake, what have you said about Politicians? you made me a great Compliment in the Trust you reposed in my Prudence, or what Mischief might not I have done you with some that affect that Denomination? Your Lordship might as safely have spoken of Heroes. What a Bluster would the God of the Winds have made, had one that we know puffed against *Æolus*, or (like *Xerxes*) whipped the Seas? They had dialogued it in the Language of the *Rehearsal*.

I'll give him Flash for Flash—

I'll give him Dash for Dash—

But now is all safe; the Poets are preparing Songs of Joy, and Halcyon Days are the Word.

I hope

I hope, my Lord, it will not be long before your dutiful Affection brings you to Town. I fear it will a little raise your Envy to find all the Muses employed in celebrating a Royal Work ^a, which your own Partiality will think inferior to *Bevis-Mount*. But if you have any Inclination to be even with them, you need but put three or four Wits into any Hole in your Garden, and they will out-rhime all *Eton* and *Westminster*, I think, *Gay*, *Swift*, and I could undertake it, if you don't think our Heads too expensive: but the same Hand that did the others, will do them as cheap. If all else should fail, you are sure at least of the Head, Hand, and Heart of your Servant.

Why should you fear any disagreeable News to reach us at *Mount-Bewis*? Do as I do even within ten Miles of *London*, let no News whatever come near you. As to public Affairs we never knew a deader Season: 'tis all silent, deep Tranquillity. Indeed, they say, 'tis sometimes so just before an Earthquake. But whatever happens, cannot we observe the wise Neutrality of the *Dutch*, and let all about us fall by the Ears? Or if you, my Lord, should be pricked on by any old fashion'd Notions of Honour and Romance, and think it necessary for the General of the Marines to be in Action, when our Fleets are in Motion; meet them at *Spithead*, and take me along with you. I decline no Danger where the Glory of *Great-Britain* is concerned; and will contribute to empty the largest Bowl of Punch that shall be rigged out on such an Occasion. Adieu, my Lord, and may as many Years attend you, as may be happy and honourable.

^a *The Hermitage.*

LETTER XXXVI.

FROM THE EARL OF PETERBOROUGH.

YOU must receive my Letters with a just Impartiality, and give Grains of Allowance for a gloomy or rainy Day; I sink grievously with the Weather-glass, and am quite spiritless when oppressed with the Thoughts of a Birth-day or a Return.

Dutiful Affection was bringing me to Town, but undutiful Laziness, and being much out of Order, keep me in the Country: however, if alive, I must make my Appearance at the Birth-day. Where you shewed one Letter, you may shew the other; she that never was wanting in any good Office in her Power, will make a proper Excuse, where a Sin of Omission, I fear, is not reckoned as a venial Sin.

I consent you shall call me polemic, or associate me to any Sect or Corporation, provided you do not join me to the Charitable Rogues or to the Pacific Politicians of the present Age. I have read over *a Barkley* in vain, and find, after a Stroke given on the left, I cannot offer the right Cheek for another Blow: All I can bring myself to, is to bear Mortification from the fair Sex with Patience.

You seem to think it vexatious that I shall allow you but one Woman at a Time, either to praise, or love. If I dispute with you upon this Point, I doubt every Jury will give a Verdict against me. So, Sir, with a Mahometan Indulgence, I allow you Pluralities, the favourite Privilege of our Church.

I find you do not mend upon Correction; again I tell you, you must not think of Women in a reasonable Way: you know we always make Goddesses of those we adore upon Earth; and do not all the good Men tell us, we must lay aside Reason in what relates to the Deity?

'Tis

a Barkley's Apology for the Quakers.

from SEVERAL PERSONS.

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'Tis well the Poets are preparing Songs of Joy:
'tis well to lay in Antidotes of soft Rhyme, against
the rough Prose they may chance to meet with at
Westminster. I should have been glad of any Thing
of *Swift's*: Pray, when you write to him next, tell
him I expect him with Impatience, in a Place as odd
and as much out of the Way, as himself.

Yours.

L E T-

WHENEVER you apply as a good Papist to your Female Mediatrix, you are sure of Success; but there is not a full Assurance of your entire Submission to Mother Church, and that abates a little of your Authority. However, if you will accept of Country Letters, she will correspond from the Hay-cock, and I will write to you upon the Side of my Wheel-barrow: surely such Letters might escape Examination.

Your Idea of the golden Age is, that every Shepherd might pipe where he pleased. As I have lived longer, I am more moderate in my Wishes, and would be content with the Liberty of not piping where I am not pleased.

Oh how I wish, to myself and my Friends, a Freedom which Fate seldom allows, and which we often refuse ourselves! Why is our Sheperdess^a in voluntary Slavery? why must our Dean submit to the Colour of his Coat, and live absent from us? and why are you confined to what you cannot relieve?

I seldom venture to give Accounts of my Journeys before Hand, because I take Resolutions of going to *London*, and keep them no better than quarreling Lovers do theirs. But the Devil will drive me thither about the middle of next Month, and I will call upon you, to be sprinkled with holy Water before I enter the Place of Corruption.

Your, &c.

^a Mrs. H.

L E T-

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L E T T E R XXXVIII.

FROM THE SAME.

1732.

I am under the greatest Impatience to see Dr. *Swift* at *Bevis-Mount*, and must signify my Mind to him by another Hand, it not being permitted me to hold Correspondence with the said Dean, for no Letter of mine can come to his Hands.

And whereas it is apparent, in this Protestant Land, most especially under the Care of Divine Providence, that nothing can succeed or come to a happy Issue but by Bribery; therefore let me know what he expects to comply with my Desires, and it shall be remitted unto him.

For tho' I would not corrupt any Man for the whole World, yet a Benevolence may be given without any Offence to Conscience; every one must confess, that Gratification and Corruption are two distinct Terms; nay at worst many good Men hold, that for a good End, some very naughty Measures may be made Use of.

But, Sir, I must give you some good News in Relation to myself, because, I know, you wish me well; I am cured of some Diseases in my old Age, which tormented me very much in my Youth.

I was possessed with violent and uneasy Passions, such as a peevish Concern for Truth^a, and a faucy Love for my Country.

When a Christian Priest preached against the Spirit of the Gospel, when an *English* Judge determined against Magna Charta, when the Minister acted against Common Sense, I used to fret.

Now, Sir, let what will happen, I keep myself in Temper: As I have no flattering Hopes, so I banish
all

^a As may be seen from his Transactions with Fenwick in the Year 1696-7.

all useleſs Fears; but as to the Things of this World, I find myſelf in a Condition beyond Expectation; it being evident from a late Parliamentary Inquiry, that I have as much ready Money, as much in the Funds, and as great a perſonal Eſtate, as Sir *Robert S-t-t-n*.

If the Tranſlator of *Homer* find Fault with this unheroic Diſpoſition, or (what I more fear) if the Drapier of *Ireland* accuſe the *Engliſhman* of Want of Spirit: I ſilence you both with one Line out of your own *Horace*. *Quid te exempla juvat ſpinis e pluribus una?* For I take the whole to be ſo corrupted, that a Cure in any Part would be of little Avail.

Your, &c.

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LETTER XXXIX.

DR. SWIFT TO THE EARL OF
PETERBOROUGH

MY LORD,

I NEVER knew or heard of any Person so volatile, and so fixed as your Lordship: You, while your Imagination is carrying you through every Corner of the World, where you have or have not been, can at the same Time remember to do Offices of Favour and Kindness to the meanest of your Friends; and in all the Scenes you have passed, have not been able to attain that one Quality peculiar to a great Man, of forgetting every Thing but Injuries. Of this I am a living Witness against you; for being the most insignificant of all your old humble Servants, you were so cruel as never to give me Time to ask a Favour, but prevented me in doing whatever you thought I desired, or could be for my Credit or Advantage.

I have often admired at the Capriciousness of Fortune in Regard to your Lordship. She hath forced Courts to act against their oldest, and most constant Maxims; to make you a General because you had Courage and Conduct; an Ambassador, because you had Wisdom and Knowledge in the Interests of *Europe*; and an Admiral on Account of your Skill in maritime Affairs: whereas, according to the usual Method of Court Proceedings, I should have been at the Head of the Army, and you of the Church, or rather a Curate, under the Dean of *St. Patrick's*.

The Archbishop of *Dublin* laments that he did not see your Lordship, till he was just upon the Point of leaving the *Bath*: I pray God you may have found Success in that Journey, else I shall continue to think there is a Fatality in all your Lordship's Undertakings, which only terminate in your own Honour, and the

Good of the Public, without the least Advantage to your Health or Fortune.

I remember Lord *Oxford's* Ministry us'd to tell me, that not knowing where to write to you, they were forced to write at you. It is so with me, for you are in one Thing an evangelical Man, that you know not where to lay your Head, and, I think, you have no House. Pray, my Lord, write to me, that I may have the Pleasure in this scoundrel Country, of going about, and shewing my depending Parsons a Letter from the Earl of *Peterborough*.

I am, &c.

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LETTER XL.

To *** a.

Sept. 13.

I BELIEVE you are by this Time immersed in your vast Wood ; and one may address to you as to a very abstracted Person, like *Alexander Selkirk*, or the ^bSelf-taught Philosopher. I should be very curious to know what Sort of Contemplations employ you. I remember the latter of those I mentioned, gave himself up to a devout Exercise of making his Head giddy with various Circumrotations, to imitate the Motions of the celestial Bodies. I don't think it at all impossible that Mr. L. may be far advanced in that Exercise, by frequent Turns towards the several Aspects of the Heavens, to which you may have been pleased to direct him in Search of Prospects and new Avenues. He will be tractable in Time, as Birds are tamed by being whirled about ; and doubtless come not to despise the meanest Shrubs or Coppice Wood, tho' naturally he seems more inclined to admire God, in his greater Works, the tall Timber : for, as *Virgil* has it, *Non omnes arbuſta juvant, humilesque myricæ*. I wish myself with you both, whether you are in Peace or at War, in violent Argumentation or smooth Consent, over Gazettes in the Morning, or over Plans in the Evening. In that last Article, I am of Opinion your Lordship has a Loss of me ; for generally after the Debate of a whole Day, we acquiesced at Night in the best Conclusion of which human Reason seems capable in all great Matters, to fall fast asleep ! And so we ended, unless immediate

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Reve-

^a Lord Bathurst.

^b *The Title of an Arabic Treatise of the Life of Hai Ebn Yocktan ; written to explain and recommend the mystic Theology of the Mahometans, in all Respects the same with the Mysticism of Christian Fanatics.*

Revelation (which ever must overcome human Reason) suggested some new Lights to us, by a Vision in Bed. But laying aside Theory, I am told, you are going directly to Practice. Alas, what a Fall will that be? A new Building is like a new Church; when once it is set up, you must maintain it in all the Forms, and with all the Inconveniences; then cease the pleasant luminous Days of Inspiration, and there is an End of Miracles at once!

That this Letter may be all of a Piece, I'll fill the rest with an Account of a Consultation lately held in my Neighbourhood about designing a princely Garden. Several Critics were of several Opinions: One declared he would not have too much Art in it; for my Notion (said he) of Gardening is, that it is only sweeping Nature: Another told them that Gravel Walks were not of a good Taste, for all the finest Abroad were of loose Sand. A third advised peremptorily there should not be one Lyme-tree in the whole Plantation: A fourth made the same exclusive Clause extend to Horse-chestnuts, which he affirmed not to be Trees, but Weeds: Dutch Elms were condemned by a fifth; and thus about half the Trees were proscribed, contrary to the Paradise of God's own planting, which is expressly said to be planted with *all Trees*. There were some who could not bear Evergreens, and called them Never-greens; some who were angry at them only when cut into Shapes, and gave the modern Gardeners the Name of Ever-green Taylors; some who had no Dislike to Cones and Cubes, but would have them cut in Forest-Trees; and some who were in a Passion against any Thing in Shape, even against clipt Hedges, which they called green Walls. These (my Lord) are our Men of Taste, who pretend to prove it by tasting little or nothing. Sure such a Taste is like such a Stomach, not a good one, but a weak one. We have the same Sort of Critics in Poetry; one is fond of nothing but Heroics,

An Expression of Sir T. H.

roics, another cannot relish Tragedies, another hates Pastorals, all little Wits delight in Epigrams. Will you give me leave to add, there are the same in Divinity; where many leading Critics are for rooting up more than they plant, and would leave the Lord's Vineyard either very thinly furnished, or very oddly trimmed.

I have lately been with my Lord **, who is a zealous, yet a charitable Planter, and has so bad a Taste, as to like all that is Good. He has a Disposition to wait on you in his Way to the *Bath*, and if he can go and return to *London* in eight or ten Days, I am not without a Hope of seeing your Lordship with the Delight I always see you. Every where I think of you, and every where I wish for you.

I am, &c.

LETTER XLI

T O M R C

Sept. 2, 1732.

I ASSURE you I am glad of your Letter, and have long wanted nothing but the Permission you now give me, to be plain and unreserved upon this Head. I wrote to you concerning it long since; but a Friend of yours and mine was of Opinion, it was taking too much upon me, and more than I could be entitled to by the mere Merit of long Acquaintance, and Goodwill. I have not a Thing in my Heart relating to any Friend, which I would not, in my own Nature, declare to all Mankind. The Truth is what you guess; I could not esteem your Conduct, to an Object of Misery so near you as Mrs. —, and I have often hinted it to yourself: The Truth is, I cannot yet esteem it for any Reason I am able to see. But this I promise, I acquit you as far as your own Mind acquits you. I have now no further Cause of Complaint, for the unhappy Lady gives me now no further Pain; she is no longer an Object either of yours or my Compassion; the Hardships done her, are lodged in the Hands of God, nor has any Man more to do in them, except the Persons concerned in occasioning them.

As for the Interruption of our Correspondence, I am sorry you seem to put the Test of my Friendship upon that, because it is what I am disqualified from toward my other Acquaintance, with whom I cannot hold any frequent Commerce. I'll name you the Obstacles which I can't surmount: Want of Health, Want of Time, Want of good Eyes; and one yet stronger than them all, I write not upon the Terms of
other

other Men. For however glad I might be, of expressing my Respect, opening my Mind, or venting my Concerns, to my private Friends; I hardly dare while there are *Curlls* in the World. If you please to reflect either on the Impertinence of weak Admirers, the Malice of low Enemies, the Avarice of mercenary Booksellers, or the silly Curiosity of People in general; you'll confess I have small Reason to indulge Correspondences; in which too I want Materials, as I live altogether out of Town, and have abstracted my Mind (I hope) to better Things than common News. I wish my Friends would send me back those Forfeitures of my Discretion, commit to my Justice what I trusted only to their Indulgence, and return me at the Year's End those trifling Letters, which can be to them but a Day's Amusement, but to me may prove a Discredit as lasting and extensive, as the aforesaid weak Admirers, mean Enemies, mercenary Scribblers, or curious Simpletons, can make it.

I come now to a Particular you complain of, my not answering your Question about some Party-papers, and their Authors. This indeed I could not tell you, because I never was, or will be privy to such Papers: And if by Accident, through my Acquaintance with any of the Writers, I had known a Thing they concealed; I should certainly never be the Reporter of it.

For my waiting on you at your Country-house, I have often wish'd it; it was my Compliance to a superior Duty that hindered me, and one which you are too good a Christian to wish I should have broken, having never ventured to leave my Mother (at her great Age) for more than a Week, which is too little for such a Journey.

Upon the whole, I must acquit myself of any Act or Thought, in Prejudice of the Regard I owe you, as so long and obliging an Acquaintance and Correspondent. I am sure I have all the good Wishes for yourself and your Family, that become a Friend: There is no Accident that can happen to your Advan-

rage, and no Action that can redound to your Credit, which I should not be ready to extol, or to rejoice in. And therefore I beg you to be assured, I am in Disposition and Will, tho' not so much as I would be in Testimonies or Writing,

Your, &c

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LETTER XLII

TO MR. RICHARDSON.

Jan. 13, 1732.

I HAVE at last got my Mother so well, as to allow myself to be absent from her for three Days. As Sunday is one of them, I do not know whether I may propose to you to employ it in the Manner you mentioned to me once. Sir Godfrey called employing the Pencil, the Prayer of a Painter, and affirmed it to be his proper Way of serving God, by the Talent he gave him. I am sure, in this Instance, it is serving your Friend; and, you know, we are allowed to do that (nay even to help a Neighbour's Ox or Ass) on the Sabbath: which, tho' it may seem a general Precept, yet in one Sense particularly applies to you, who have help'd many a human Ox, and many a human Ass, to the Likeness of Man, not to say of God.

Believe me, dear Sir, with all good Wishes for yourself and your Family (the Happiness of which Ties I know by Experience, and have learn'd to value from the late Danger of losing the best of mine)

Your, &c.

K 5

L E T.

Twickenham, June 10, 1733.

AS I know, you and I mutually desire to see one another, I hoped that this Day our Wishes would have met, and brought you hither. And this for the very Reason which possibly might hinder your coming, that my poor Mother is dead^a. I thank God, her Death was as easy, as her Life was innocent; and as it cost her not a Groan, or even a Sigh, there is yet upon her Countenance such an Expression of Tranquillity, nay, almost of Pleasure, that it is even amiable to behold it. It would afford the finest Image of a Saint expired, that ever Painting drew; and it would be the greatest Obligation which even that obliging Art could ever bestow on a Friend, if you would come and sketch it for me. I am sure, if there be no very prevalent Obstacle, you will leave any common Business to do this: And I hope to see you this Evening as late as you will, or To-morrow Morning as early before this Winter Flower is faded. I will defer her Interment till To-morrow Night. I know you love me, or I could not have written this—I could not (at this Time) have written at all—
Adieu! may you die as happily!

Your, &c.

^a Mrs. Pope died the seventh of June, 1733, aged 93.

L E T T E R XLIV.

TO THE SAME.

IT is hardly possible to tell you the Joy your Pencil gave me, in giving me another Friend, so much the same! and which (alas for Mortality!) will out-last the other. Posterity will, through your Means, see the Man whom it will for Ages honour^a, vindicate, and applaud, when Envy is no more, and when (as I have already said in the Essay to which you are so partial)

The Sons shall blush the Fathers were his Foes.

That Essay has many Faults, but the Poem you sent me has but one, and that I can easily forgive. Yet I would not have it printed for the World, and yet I would not have it kept unprinted neither, but all in good Time. I'm glad you publish your *Milton*. *B——*ly will be angry at you, and at me too shortly for what I could not help, a Satyrical Poem on Verbal Criticism by Mr. *Mallet*; which he has inscribed to me, but the Poem itself is good (another Cause of Anger to any Critic:) As for myself, I resolve to go on in my quiet, calm, moral Course, taking no Sort of Notice of Man's Anger, or Woman's Scandal, with Virtue in my Eyes, and Truth upon my Tongue. Adieu.

^a *Lord Bolingbroke.*

LET-

Aug. 9, 1733.

YOU might well think me negligent or forgetful of you, if true Friendship and sincere Esteem were to be measured by common Forms and Compliments. The Truth is, I could not write then, without saying something of my own Condition, and of my Loss of so old and so deserving a Parent, which really would have troubled you; or I must have kept a Silence upon that Head, which would not have suited that Freedom and sincere Opening of the Heart which is due to you from me. I am now pretty well; but my Home is uneasy to me still, and I am therefore wandering about all this Summer. I was but four Days at *Twickenham* since the Occasion that made it so melancholy. I have been a Fortnight in *Essex*, and am now at *Dawley* (whose Master is your Servant) and going to *Cirencester* to Lord *Bathurst*. I shall also see *Southampton* with Lord *Peterborough*. The Court and *Twickenham* I shall forsake together. I wish I did not leave our Friend *a*, who deserves more Quiet, and more Health and Happiness, than can be found in such a Family. The rest of my Acquaintance are tolerably happy in their various Ways of Life, whether Court, Country, or Town; and Mr. *Cleland* is as well in the Park, as if he were in Paradise. I heartily hope *Yorkshire* is the same to you; and that no Evil, moral, or physical, may come near you.

I have now but too much melancholy Leisure, and no other Care but to finish my Essay on Man: There will be in it one Line that may offend you (I fear) and yet I will not alter nor omit it, unless you come to Town and prevent me before I print it, which will

will be in a Fortnight in all Probability. In plain Truth, I will not deny myself the greatest Pleasure I am capable of receiving, because another may have the Modesty not to share it. It is all a poor Poet can do, to bear Testimony to the Virtue he cannot reach: besides, that, in this Age, I see too few good Examples not to lay hold on any I can find. You see what an interested Man I am. Adieu.

L E T -

LETTER XLVI.

To ——— a.

Sept. 7, 1733.

YOU cannot think how melancholy this Place makes me; every Part of this Wood puts into my Mind poor Mr. Gay, with whom I once passed a great deal of pleasant Time in it, and another Friend who is near dead, and quite lost to us, Dr. Swift. I really can find no Enjoyment in the Place; the same Sort of Uneasiness as I find at *Twit'nham*, whenever I pass near my Mother's Room.

I've not yet writ to Mrs. *. I think I should, but have nothing to say that will answer the Character they consider me in, as a Wit; besides, my Eyes grow very bad (whatever is the Cause of it) I'll put them out for no Body but a Friend; and, I protest, it brings Tears into them almost to write to you, when I think of your State and mine. I long to write to *Swift*, but cannot. The greatest Pain I know, is to say Things so very short of one's Meaning, when the Heart is full.

I feel the going out of Life fast enough, to have little Appetite left to make Compliments, at best useless, and for the most Part unselt Speeches. 'Tis but in a very narrow Circle that Friendship walks in this World, and I care not to tread out of it more than I needs must; knowing well, it is but to two or three (if quite so many) that any Man's Welfare, or Memory, can be of Consequence: the rest, I believe, I may forget, and be pretty certain they are already even, if not before hand with me.

Life, after the first warm Heats are over, is all down Hill: and one almost wishes the Journey's End, provided we were but sure to lie down easy whenever the Night shall overtake us.

I dreamed all last Night of —. She has dwelt (a little more than perhaps is right) upon my Spirits: I

saw

saw a very deserving Gentleman in my Travels, who has formerly, I have heard, had much the same Misfortune; and (with all his good Breeding and Sense) still bears a Cloud and melancholy Cast, that can never quite clear up, in all his Behaviour and Conversation. I know another, who, I believe, could promise, and easily keep his Word, never to laugh in his Life. But one must do one's best, not to be used by the World as that poor Lady was by her Sister; and not seem too good, for fear of being thought affected, or whimsical.

It is a real Truth, that to the last of my Moments, the Thought of you, and the best of my Wishes for you, will attend you, told or untold.

I could wish you had once the Constancy and Resolution to act for yourself, whether before, or after I leave you (the only Way I ever shall leave you,) you must determine; but reflect, that the first would make me, as well as yourself, happier; the latter could make you only so. Adieu.

LET

LETTER XLVII.

FROM DR. ARBUTHNOT.

Hampstead, July 17, 1734.

I LITTLE doubt of your kind Concern for me, nor of that of the Lady you mention: I have nothing to repay my Friends with at present, but Prayers and good Wishes. I have the Satisfaction to find that I am as officiously served by my Friends, as he that has thousands to leave in Legacies; besides the Assurance of their Sincerity. God Almighty has made my bodily Distress as easy as a Thing of that Nature can be. I have found some Relief, at least sometimes, from the Air of this Place. My Nights are bad, but many poor Creatures have worse.

As for you, my good Friend, I think since our first Acquaintance there have not been any of these little Suspicions or Jealousies that often affect the sincerest Friendships: I am sure, not on my Side. I must be so sincere as to own, that though I could not help valuing you for those Talents which the World prizes, yet they were not the Foundations of my Friendships; they were quite of another Sort; nor shall I at present offend you by enumerating them: And I make it my last Request, that you will continue that noble Disdain and Abhorrence of Vice, that you seem naturally endued with; but still with a due Regard to your own Safety; and study more to reform than chastise, tho' the one cannot be effected without the other.

Lord Bathurst I have always honoured, for every good Quality that a Person of his Rank ought to have: Pray, give my Respects and kindest Wishes to the
Family

Family. My Venison Stomach is gone, but I have those about me, and often with me, who will be very glad of his Present. If it is left at my House it will be transmitted safe to me.

A Recovery in my Case, and at my Age, is impossible; the kindest Wish of my Friends is Euthanasia. Living or dying, I shall always be

Your, &c.

L E T-

LETTERS to and
LETTER XLVIII.
TO DR. ARBUTHNOT.

July 26, 1734.

I THANK you for your Letter, which has all those genuine Marks of a good Mind by which I have ever distinguished yours, and for which I have so long loved you. Our Friendship has been constant; because it was grounded on good Principles, and therefore not only uninterrupted by any Distrust, but by any Vanity, much less any Interest.

What you recommend to me with the Solemnity of a Last Request, shall have its due Weight with me. That Disdain and Indignation against Vice, is (I thank God) the only Disdain and Indignation I have: It is sincere, and it will be a lasting one. But sure it is as impossible to have a just Abhorrence of Vice without hating the Vicious, as to bear a true Love for Virtue, without loving the Good. To reform and not to chastise, I am afraid, is impossible; and that the best Precepts, as well as the best Laws, would prove of small Use, if there were no Examples to enforce them. To attack Vices in the abstract, without touching Persons, may be safe fighting indeed, but it is fighting with Shadows. General Propositions are obscure, misty, and uncertain, compar'd with plain, full, and home Examples: Precepts only apply to our Reason, which in most Men is but weak: Examples are Pictures, and strike the Senses, may raise the Passions, and call in those (the strongest and most general of all Motives) to the Aid of Reformation. Every vicious Man makes the Case his own; and that is the only Way by which such Men can be affected, much less deterred. So that to chastise is to reform. The only Sign by which I found my Writings ever did any Good, or had any Weight, has been that they raised the Anger of bad Men. And my greatest Comfort, and Encouragement to proceed,

ceed, has been to see, that those who have no Shame, and no Fear of any Thing else, have appear'd touch'd by my Satires.

As to your kind Concern for my Safety, I can guess what occasions it at this Time. Some Characters ^a I have drawn are such, that if there be any who deserve them, 'tis evidently a Service to Mankind to point those Men out; yet such as, if all the World gave them, none, I think, will own they take to themselves. But if they should, those of whom all the World think in such a Manner, must be Men I cannot fear. Such in particular as have the Meanness to do Mischiefs in the Dark, have seldom the Courage to justify them in the Face of Day; the Talents that make a Cheat or a Whisperer, are not the same that qualify a Man for an Insulter: and as to private Villainy, it is not so safe to join in an Assassination, as in a Libel ^b. I will consult my Safety so far as I think becomes a prudent Man: but not so far as to omit any Thing which I think becomes an honest one. As to personal Attacks beyond the Law, every Man is liable to them: as for Danger within the Law, I am not guilty enough to fear any. For the good Opinion of all the World, I know it is not to be had: for that of worthy Men, I hope, I shall not forfeit it: for that of the Great, or those in Power, I may wish I had it; but if through Misrepresentations (too common about Persons in that Station) I have it not, I shall be sorry, but not miserable in the Want of it.

It is certain, much freer Satirists than I, have enjoyed the Encouragement and Protection of the Princes under whom they lived. *Augustus* and *Mæcenæ* made *Horace* their Companion, tho' he had been in Arms on the Side of *Brutus*; and, allow me to remark, it was out of the suffering Party too, that they favoured and distinguished *Virgil*. You will not suspect

^a *The Character of Sporus in the Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot.*

^b *See the following Letter to a noble Lord.*

pect me of comparing myself with *Virgil* and *Horace*, nor even with another Court Favourite, *Boileau*. I have always been too modest to imagine my Panegyrics were Incense worthy of a Court; and that, I hope, will be thought the true Reason why I have never offered any. I would only have observed, that it was under the greatest Princes and best Ministers, that moral Satirists were most encouraged; and that then Poets exercised the same Jurisdiction over the Follies, as Historians did over the Vices of Men. It may also be worth considering, whether *Augustus* himself makes the greater Figure, in the Writings of the former, or of the latter? and whether *Nero* and *Domitian* do not appear as ridiculous for their false Taste and Affectation, in *Persius* and *Juvenal*, as odious for their bad Government in *Tacitus* and *Suetonius*? In the first of these Reigns it was, that *Horace* was protected and carels'd; and in the latter that *Lucan* was put to Death, and *Juvenal* banished.

I would not have said so much, but to shew you my whole Heart on this Subject; and to convince you I am deliberately bent to perform that Request which you make your last to me, and to perform it with Temper, Justice, and Resolution. As your Approbation (being the Testimony of a sound Head and an honest Heart) does greatly confirm me herein, I wish you may live to see the Effect it may hereafter have upon me, in something more deserving of that Approbation. But if it be the Will of God (which, I know, will also be yours) that we must separate, I hope it will be better for you than it can be for me. You are fitter to live, or to dye, than any Man I know. Adieu, my dear Friend! and may God preserve your Life easy, or make your Death happy c.

c This excellent Person died Feb. 1734-5.

We

[We find by Letter xix. to Dr. Atterbury, that the Duchess of Buckinghamshire would have engaged Mr. Pope to draw her Husband's Character. But though he refused this Office, yet in his Epistle, on the Characters of Women, these Lines,

To Heirs unknown descend th' unguarded Store,
Or wanders, Heav'n-directed, to the Poor.

are supposed to mark her out in such a Manner as not to be mistaken for another; and having said of himself that he held a Lye in Prose and Verse to be the same: All this together gave a Handle to his Enemies, since his Death, to publish the following Paper, (intitled, The Character of Katharine, &c.) as written by him. On which Account (in Vindication of the deceased Poet) we have subjoined to it a Letter to a Friend, that will let the Reader fully into the History of the Writing and Publication of this extraordinary CHARACTER.]

THE CHARACTER OF
KATHARINE,
LATE
DUCHESS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
AND NORMANBY.

BY THE LATE MR. POPE.

SHE was the Daughter of *James* the second, and of the Countess of *Dorchester*, who inherited the Integrity and Virtue of her Father with happier Fortune. She was married first to *James* Earl of *Anglesey*; and secondly, to *John* *Sheffield* Duke of *Buckinghamshire*

inghamshire and *Normanby*; with the former she exercised the Virtues of *Patience* and *Suffering*, as long as there were any Hopes of doing good by either; with the latter all other *Conjugal Virtues*. The Man of finest Sense and sharpest Discernment, she had the Happiness to please; and in that, found her only Pleasure. When he died, it seemed as if his Spirit was only breathed into her, to fulfil what he had begun, to perform what he had concerted, and to preserve and watch over what he had left, *his only Son*; in the Care of whose Health, the forming of whose Mind, and the Improvement of whose Fortune, she acted with the Conduct and Sense of the Father, softened, but not overcome, with the Tenderness of the Mother. Her Understanding was such as must have made a Figure, had it been in a Man; but the Modesty of her Sex threw a Veil over its Lustre, which nevertheless suppressed only the Expression, not the Exertion of it; for her Sense was not superior to her Resolution, which, when once she was in the right, preserved her from making it only a Transition to the wrong, the frequent Weakness even of the best Women. She often followed wise Counsel, but sometimes went before it, always with Success. She was possessed of a Spirit, which assisted her to get the better of those Accidents, which admitted of any Redress, and enabled her to support outwardly, with Decency and Dignity, those which admitted of none; yet melted inwardly, through almost her whole Life, at a Succession of melancholy and affecting Objects, the Misfortunes of *Relations and Friends, public and private*, and the Death of those who were dearest to her. Her Heart was as compassionate, as it was great: Her Affections warm even to Solicitude: Her Friendship not violent or jealous, but rational and persevering: her Gratitude equal and constant to the living; to the dead boundless and heroical. What Person soever she found worthy of her Esteem, she would not give up for any Power on Earth; and the greatest on Earth whom she could not esteem, obtained

ed from her no farther Tribute than Decency. Her Good-will was wholly directed by Merit, not by Accident : not measured by the Regard they professed for her own Desert, but by her Idea of theirs : And as there was no Merit which she was not able to imitate, there was none which she could envy : therefore her Conversation was as free from Detraction as her Opinions from Prejudice or Prepossession. As her Thoughts were her own, so were her Words; and she was as sincere in uttering her Judgment, as impartial in forming it. She was a safe Companion ; many were served, none ever suffered by her Acquaintance : inoffensive, when unprovok'd ; when provok'd, not stupid : But the Moment her Enemy ceased to be hurtful, she could cease to act as an Enemy. She was therefore not a bitter but consistent Enemy : (tho' indeed, when forced to be so, the more a finish'd one for having been so long a making.) And her Proceeding with ill People was more in a calm and steady Course, like Justice, than in quick and passionate Onsets, like Revenge. As for those of whom she only thought ill, she consider'd them not so much as once to wish them ill ; of such, her Contempt was great enough to put a Stop to all other Passions that could hurt them. Her Love and Aversion, her Gratitude and Resentment, her Esteem and Neglect, were equally open and strong, and alterable only from the Alteration of the Persons who created them. Her Mind was too noble to be insincere, and her Heart too honest to stand in Need of it ; so that she never found Cause to repent her Conduct either to a Friend or an Enemy. There remains, only to speak of her Person, which was most amiably majestic, the nicest Eye could find no Fault in the outward Lineaments of her Face or Proportion of her Body : it was such, as pleas'd wherever she had a Desire it should ; yet she never envied that of any other, which might better please in general : In the same Manner, as being content that her Merits were esteemed where she desired they should, she never depreciated those of any other

other that were esteemed or preferred elsewhere. For she aimed not at a general Love or a general Esteem where she was not known; it was enough to be possessed of both wherever she was. Having lived to the Age of sixty two Years; not courting Regard, but receiving it from all who knew her; not loving Business, but discharging it fully wheresoever Duty or Friendship engaged her in it; not following Greatness, but not declining to pay Respect, as far as was due from Independency and Disinterest; having honourably absolved all the Parts of Life, she forsook this World, where she had left no Act of Duty or Virtue undone, for that where alone such Acts are rewarded, on the 13th Day of March, 1742-3 ^a.

^a "The above Character was written by Mr. Pope some Years before her Grace's Death." So the printed Edition.

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MR. POPE TO JAMES MOYSER, OF
BEVERLEY, ESQ.

DEAR SIR, Bath, July 11, 1743.

I AM always glad to hear of you, and where I can I always enquire of you. But why have you omitted to tell me one Word of your own Health? The Account of our Friend's ^a is truly melancholy, added to the Circumstance of his being detained (I fear, without much Hope) in a foreign Contry, from the Comfort of seeing (what a good Man most desires and best deserves to see to the last Hour) his Friends about him. The public News ^b indeed gives every *Englishman* a reasonable Joy, and I truly feel it with you, as a national Joy, not a Party one; nay as a general Joy to all Nations where Bloodshed and Misery must have been introduced, had the Ambition and Perfidy of ——— prevailed.

I come now to answer your Friend's Question. The whole of what he has heard of my writing the Character of the old Duke of ^c *Buckingham* is untrue. I do not remember ever to have seen it in MS. nor have I ever seen the Pedigree he mentions, otherwise than after the Duchess had printed it with the Will, and sent one to me, as, I suppose, she did to all her Acquaintance. I do not wonder it should be reported I writ that Character, after a Story which I will tell you in your Ear, and to yourself only. There was another *Character written of her Grace* by herself (with what Help, I know not) but she shewed it me in her Blots, and pressed me, by all the Adjurations of Friendship, to give her my sincere Opinion of it. I acted honestly and did so. She seemed to take it patiently, and, upon many Exceptions which

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I made,

^a Mr. Bethel.^b *The Victory at Dettingen.*^c *He says the old Duke, because he wrote a very fine Epitaph for the Son.*

I made, engaged me to take the whole, and to select out of it just as much as I judged might stand, and return her the Copy. I did so. Immediately she picked a Quarrel with me, and we never saw each other in five or six Years. In the mean Time, she shewed this Character (as much as was extracted of it in my Hand-writing) as a Composition of my own, in her Praise. And very probably it is *now in the Hands of Lord Harvey*. Dear Sir, I sincerely wish you, and your whole Family, (whose Welfare is so closely connected) the best Health and truest Happiness; and am (as is also the Master of this Place)

Your, &c.

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A LETTER TO A NOBLE LORD ^a.

ON OCCASION OF SOME LIBELS WRITTEN AND
PROPAGATED AT COURT, IN THE YEAR, 1732-3,

MY LORD, Nov. 30, 1733.

YOUR Lordship's ^b Epistle has been published
some Days, but I had not the Pleasure and Pain
of seeing it till Yesterday: Pain, to think your
Lordship should attack me at all; Pleasure, to find
that you should attack me so weakly. As I want not
the Humility, to think myself in every Way but *one*
your Inferiour, it seems but reasonable that I should
take the only Method either of Self-defence or Reta-
liation, that is left me against a Person of your Qua-
lity and Power. And as by your Choice of this
Weapon, your Pen, you generously (and modestly
too, no doubt) meant to put yourself upon a Level

L 2

with

^a This Letter (which was first printed in the Year
1733) bears the same Place in our Author's Prose that
the Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot does in his Poetry. They
are both Apologetical, repelling the libellous Slanders
on his Reputation: with this Difference, that the Epi-
stle to Dr. Arbuthnot, his Friend, was chiefly directed
against Grub-street Writers, and this Letter to the no-
ble Lord, his Enemy, against Court Scriblers. For
the rest, they are both Master-pieces in their Kinds;
That in Verse, more grave, moral, and sublime;
This in Prose more lively, critical, and pointed; but
equally conducive to what he had most at Heart, the
Vindication of his moral Character: the only Thing he
thought worth his Care in literary Altercations; and
the first Thing he would expect from the good Offices of
a surviving Friend.

^b Entitled, An Epistle to a Doctor of Divinity
from a Nobleman at Hampton-Court, Aug. 28,
1733, and printed the November following for J. Ro-
berts, Fol.

with me ; I will as soon believe that your Lordship would give a Wound to a Man unarmed, as that you would deny me the Use of it in my own Defence.

I presume you will allow me to take the same Liberty in my Answer to so *candid, polite, and ingenious* a Nobleman, which your Lordship took in yours, to so *grave, religious, and respectable* a Clergyman ^c: As you answered his *Latin* in *English*, permit me to answer your *Verse* in *Prose*. And tho' your Lordship's Reasons for not writing in *Latin*, might be stronger than mine for not writing in Verse, yet I may plead *Two good* ones, for this Conduct: the one that I want the Talent of spinning *a thousand Lines in a Day* ^d (which, I think, is as much *Time* as this Subject deserves) and the other, that I take your Lordship's *Verse* to be as much *Prose* as this Letter. But no Doubt it was your Choice, in writing to a Friend, to renounce all the Pomp of Poetry, and give us this excellent Model of the Familiar.

When I consider the *great difference* betwixt the Rank your Lordship holds in the World, and the Rank which your *Writings* are like to hold in the *learned World*, I presume that Distinction of Style is but necessary, which you will see observed through this Letter. When I speak of *you*, my Lord, it will be with all the Deference due to the Inequality which Fortune has made between you and myself: but when I speak of your *Writings*, my Lord, I must, I can do nothing but trifle.

I should be obliged indeed to lessen this *Respect*, if all the Nobility (and especially the elder Brothers) are but so many hereditary Fools ^e, if the Privilege of Lords be to want Brains ^f, if Noblemen can hardly

^c Dr. S.

^d And Pope with Justice of such Lines may say.
His Lordship spins a thousand in a Day. Epist. p. 6.

^e That to good Blood by old prescriptive Rules,
Gives Right hereditary to be Fools.

^f Nor wonder that my Brain no more affords,
But recollect the Privilege of Lords.

ly write or read g, if all their Business is but to dress and vote h, and all their Employment at Court, to tell Lies, flatter in public, slander in private, be false to each other, and follow nothing but Self-interest i. Bless me, my Lord, what an Account is this you give of them? and what would have been said of me, had I immolated, in this Manner, the whole Body of the Nobility, at the Stall of a well-fed Prebendary.

Were it the mere *Excess* of your Lordship's *Wit*, that carried you thus triumphantly over all the Bounds of Decency, I might consider your Lordship on your *Pegasus*, as a sprightly Hunter on a mettled Horse; and while you were trampling down all our Works, patiently suffer the Injury, in pure Admiration of the *Noble Sport*. But should the Case be quite otherwise, should your Lordship be only like a *Boy* that is *run away with*; and run away with by a *Very Foal*; really common Charity, as well as Respect for a noble Family, would oblige me to stop your Career, and to *help you down from this Pegasus*.

Surely the little Praise of a *Writer* should be a Thing below your Ambition: You, who were no sooner born, but in the Lap of the Graces; no sooner at School, but in the Arms of the Muses; no sooner in the World, but you practis'd all the Skill of it; no sooner in the Court, but you possessed all the Art of it! Unrivalled as you are, in making a Figure, and in making a Speech, methinks, my Lord, you may well give up the poor Talent of turning a Distich. And why this Fondness for Poetry? Prose ad-

L 3

mits

g *And when you see me fairly write my Name;*
For England's Sake wish all could do the same.
 h *Whilst all our Business is to dress and vote.* Ibid.
 i *Courts are only larger Families,*
The Growth of each, few Truths, and many Lies:
in private satyrize, in public flatter.
Few to each other, all to one Point true;
Which one I shan't, nor need explain. Adieu. p. ult.

mits of the two Excellencies you most admire, Diction and Fiction: It admits of the Talents you chiefly possess, a most fertile Invention, and most florid Expression; it is with Prose, nay the plainest Prose, that you could best teach our Nobility to vote, which you justly observe, is half at least of their Business^k: And, give me leave to prophesy, it is to your Talent in Prose, and not in Verse, to your Speaking, not your Writing, to your Art at Court, not your Art of Poetry, that your Lordship must owe your future Figure in the World.

My Lord, whatever you imagine, this is the Advice of a Friend, and one who remembers he formerly had the Honour of some Profession of Friendship from you: Whatever was his *real Share* in it, whether small or great, yet as your Lordship could never have had the least *Loss* by continuing it, or the least *Interest* by withdrawing it; the Misfortune of losing it, I fear, must have been owing to his own *Deficiency* or *Neglect*. But as to any *actual Fault* which deserved to forfeit it in such a Degree, he protests he is to this Day guiltless and ignorant. It could at most be but a Fault of *Omission*; but indeed by Omissions, Men of your Lordship's uncommon Merit may sometimes think themselves so injured as to be capable of an Inclination to injure another; who, tho' very much below their Quality, may be above the Injury.

I never heard of the least Displeasure you had conceived against me, till I was told that an Imitation I had made of^l *Horace* had offended some Persons, and among them your Lordship. I could not have apprehended that a few *general Strokes* about a *Lord scribbling carelessly* ^m, a *Pimp*, or a *Spy* at Court, a *Sharper* in a gilded Chariot, &c. that these, I say, should be ever applied as they have been, by *any Malice* but that

^k All their Business is to dress and vote.

^l The first Satire of the second Book, printed in 1732.

^m He should have added, that he called this Nobleman, who scribbled so carelessly, Lord Fanny.

that which is the greatest in the World, *the Malice of ill People to themselves.*

Your Lordship so well knows (and the whole Court and Town through your Means so well know) how far the Resentment was carried upon that Imagination, not only in the *Nature* of the *Libel* you propagated against me, but in the extraordinary *Manner*, *Place*, and *Presence* in which it was propagated^o; that I shall only say, it seemed to me to excel the Bounds of Justice, common Sense, and Decency.

I wonder yet more, how a *Lady*, of great Wit, Beauty, and Fame for her Poetry (between whom and your Lordship there is a *natural*, a *just*, and a *well-grounded Esteem*) could be prevailed upon to take a Part in that Proceeding. Your Resentments against me indeed might be equal, as my Offence to you both was the same; for neither had I the least Misunderstanding with that Lady, till after I was the *Author* of my own Misfortune in discontinuing her Acquaintance. I may venture to own a Truth, which cannot be unpleasing to either of you; I assure you my Reason for so doing, was merely that you had both *too much Wit* for me^p; and that I could not do with *mine*, many Things which you could with *yours*. The Injury done you in withdrawing myself could be but small, if the Value you had for me was no greater than you have been pleas'd since to profess. But surely, my Lord, one may say, neither the Revenge, nor the Language you held, bore any *Proportion* to the pretended Offence: The Appellations of a *Foe* to

L 4

Humankind,

n Verses to the Imitator of Horace, afterwards printed by J. Roberts, 1732, Fol.

o It was for this Reason that this Letter, as soon as it was printed, was communicated to the Q.

p Once, and but once, his heedless Youth was bit,
And lik'd that dang'rous Thing a Female Wit.

See the Letter to Dr. Arbuthnot amongst the Variations.

q See the *aforesaid* Verses to the Imitator of Horace.

Humankind, an Enemy like the Devil to all that have Being; ungrateful, unjust, deserving to be whipt, blankett'd, kicked, nay killed: a Monster, an Assassin, whose Conversation every Man ought to shun, and against whom all Doors should be shut; I beseech you, my Lord, had you the least Right to give, or to encourage or justify any other in giving such Language as this to me? Could I be treated in Terms more strong or more atrocious, if during my Acquaintance with you I had been a Betrayer, a Back-biter, a Whisperer, an Eves-dropper, or an Informer? Did I in all that Time ever throw a false Dye, or palm a foul Card upon you? Did I ever borrow, steal, or accept, either Money, Wit, or Advice from you? Had I ever the Honour to join with either on you in one Ballad, Satire, Pamphlet, or Epigram, on any one Person living or dead? Did I ever do you so great an Injury as to put off my own Verses for yours, especially on those Persons whom they might most offend? I am confident you cannot answer in the affirmative; and I can truly affirm, that ever since I lost the Happiness of your Conversation I have not published or written, one Syllable of, or to either of you; never hitch'd your Names in a Verse, or trifled with your good Names in Company. Can I be honestly charged with any other Crime but an Omission (for the Word Neglect, which I us'd before, slipped my Pen unguardedly) to continue my Admiration of you all my Life, and still to contemplate, Face to Face, your many Excellencies and Perfections? I am persuaded you can reproach me truly with no great Faults, except my natural ones, which I am as ready to own, as to do all Justice to the contrary Beauties in you. It is true, my Lord, I am short, not well shap'd, generally ill dress'd, if not sometimes dirty: Your Lordship and Ladyship are still in Bloom; your Figures such, as rival the Apollo of Belvedere, and the Venus of Medicis; and your Faces so finished, that neither Sickness or Passion can deprive them of Colour; I will allow your own in particular to be the finest

finest that ever *Man* was bless'd with : preserve it, my Lord, and reflect, that to be a Critic, would cost it too many *Frowns*, and to be a Statesman, too many *Wrinkles*! I further confess, I am now somewhat old; but so your Lordship and this excellent Lady, with all your Beauty will (I hope) one Day be. I know your Genius and hers so perfectly *tally*, that you cannot but join in admiring each other, and by Consequence in the Contempt of all such as myself. You have both, in my Regard, been like—(your Lordship, I know loves a *Simile*, and it will be one suitable to your *Quality*) you have been like *Two Princes*, and I like a *poor Animal* sacrificed between them to cement a lasting League : I hope I have not bled in vain ; but that such an Amity may endure for ever ! For tho' it be what common *Understandings* would hardly conceive, *Two Wits* however may be persuaded that it is in Friendship as in Enmity, the more *Danger* the more *Honour*.

Give me the Liberty, my Lord, to tell you, why I never reply'd to those *Verses* on the *Imitator* of *Horace* ? They regarded nothing but my *Figure*, which I set no Value upon ; and my *Morals*, which, I knew, needed no Defence : Any honest Man has the Pleasure to be conscious, that it is out of the Power of the *Wittiest*, nay the *Greatest Person* in the Kingdom, to lessen him *that Way*, but at the Expence of his own *Truth, Honour, or Justice*.

But tho' I declined to explain myself just at the Time when I was fillily threatened, I shall now give your Lordship a frank Account of the Offence you imagined to be meant to you. *Fanny* (my Lord) is the plain *English* of *Fannius*, a real Person, who was a foolish Critic, and an Enemy of *Horace* : perhaps a Noble one, so (if your *Latin* be gone in earnest) I must acquaint you the Word *Beatus* may be construed.

L 5

Beatus

« All I learn'd from Dr. Friend at School,
Has quite deserted this poor John Trot-Head,
And left plain native English in its Stead. Epist. p. 2.

*Beatus Fannius ! ultro.
De laetis capsis et imagine*

This *Fannius* was, it seems, extremely fond both of his *Poetry* and his *Person*, which appears by the *Pictures* and *Statues* he caused to be made of himself, and by his great Diligence to propagate *bad Verses* at Court, and get them admitted into the Library of *Augustus*. He was moreover of a delicate or *effeminate Complexion*, and constant at the Assemblies and Opera's of those Days, where he took it into his Head to *slander poor Horace*.

Ineptus

Fannius, *Hermogenis lædat conviva Tigelli.*

till it provoked him at last just to *name* him, give him a *Lasb*, and send him whimpering to the *Ladies*.

Discipularum inter jubeo plorare cathedras.

So much for *Fanny*, my Lord. The Word *spins* (as Dr. *Friend* or even Dr. *Sherwin* could assure you) was the literal Translation of *deduci*: a Metaphor taken from a *Silk-worm*, my Lord, to signify any *slight, filken*, or (as your Lordship and the Ladies call it) *flimsy* Piece of Work. I presume your Lordship has enough of this, to convince you there was nothing personal but to *that Fannius*, who (with all his fine Accomplishments) had never been heard of, but for *that Horace* he injur'd.

In Regard to the Right Honourable Lady, your Lordship's Friend, I was far from designing a Person of her Condition by a Name so derogatory to her, as that of *Sappho*; a Name prostituted to every infamous Creature that ever wrote Verse or Novels. I protest I never apply'd that Name to her in any Verse of mine

Weak Texture of his flimzy Brain.

mine, *public* or *private*; (and I firmly believe) not in any *Letter* or *Conversation*. Whoever could invent a Falshood to support an Accusation, I pity; and whoever can believe such a Character to be theirs, I pity still more. God forbid the Court or Town should have the Complaisance to *join* in that Opinion! Certainly I meant it only of such modern *Sappho's*, as irritate much more the *Lewdness* than the *Genius* of the ancient one; and upon whom their wretched Brethern frequently bestow both the *Name* and the *Qualification* there mentioned.

There was another Reason why I was silent as to that Paper—I took it for a *Lady's* (on the Printer's Word in the Title Page) and thought it too presuming, as well as indecent, to contend with one of that *Sex* in *Altercation*: For I never was so mean a Creature as to commit my Anger against a *Lady* to *Paper*, tho' but in a *private Letter*. But soon after, her Denial of it was brought to me by a Noble Person of *real Honour* and *Truth*. Your Lordship indeed said you had it from a Lady, and the Lady said it was your Lordship's; some thought the beautiful By-blow had *Two Fathers*, or (if one of them will hardly be allowed a Man) *Two Mothers*; indeed I think *both Sexes* had a Share in it, but which was *uppermost*, I know not: I pretend not to determine the exact Method of this *Witty Fornication*: and if I call it *Yours*, my Lord, 'tis only because, whoever got it, you brought it forth.

Here, my Lord, allow me to observe, the different Proceeding of the *Ignoble Poet*, and his *Noble Enemies*. What he has written of *Fanny*, *Adonis*, *Sappho*, or who you will, he own'd he publish'd, he set his Name to: What they have *publish'd* of him, they have denied to have *publish'd*. One of these was the Case in the Case in the past Libel, and the other in the present.

For

: From furious Sappho scarce a milder Fate,
Pox'd by her Love, or libell'd by her Hate.

i Sat. B. ii. Hor.

For tho' the Parent has own'd it to a few choice Friends, it is such as he has been obliged to deny in the most particular Terms to the great Person whose Opinion *concern'd him most*. Yet, my Lord, this Epistle was a Piece not written in *Haste*, or in a *Passion*, but many Months after all pretended Provocations; when you was at *full Leisure* at *Hampton-Court*, and I the Object *singled*, like a *Deer out of Season*, for so ill-timed, and ill placed a *Diversiō*. It was a *deliberate Work*, directed to a *Reverend Person* u, of the most *serious and sacred* Character, with whom you are known to cultivate a *strict Correspondence*, and to whom it will not be doubted, but you open your *secret Sentiments*, and deliver your *real Judgment* of Men and Things. This, I say, my Lord, with Submission, could not but awaken all my *Reflection* and *Attention*. Your Lordship's Opinion of me as a *Poet*, I cannot help; it is yours, my Lord, and that were enough to mortify a poor Man; but it is not yours *alone*, you must be content to share it with the *Gentlemen* of the *Dunciad*, and (it may be) with many *more innocent and ingenious Men*. If your Lordship destroys my *poetical* Character, *they* will claim their Part in the Glory: but, give me Leave to say, if my *moral* Character be ruin'd, it must be *wholly* the Work of *your Lordship*; and will be hard even for you to do, unless I *myself co-operate*.

How can you talk (my most worthy Lord) of all *Pope's Works* as so many *Libels*, affirm, that *he has no Invention* but in *Defamation* w, and charge him with *selling another's Man's Labours printed with his own Name* x; Fye, my Lord, you forget yourself. He printed not his Name before a Line of the Person's you mention; that Person himself has told you
and

u Dr. S.

w To his eternal Shame

Prov'd he can ne'er invent but to defame.

x And sold Broom's Labours printed with Pope's Name.

and all the World in the Book itself, what Part he had in it, as may be seen at the Conclusion of his Notes to the *Odyssey*. I can only suppose your Lordship (not having at that Time *forgot your Greek*) despised to look upon the *Translation*; and ever since entertained too mean an Opinion of the Translator to cast an Eye upon it. Besides, my Lord, when you said he *sold* another's Man's Works, you ought in Justice to have added that he *bought* them, which very much *alters the Case*. What he gave him was five hundred Pounds: his Receipt can be produced to your Lordship. I dare not affirm he was as *well paid* as *some Writers* (much his Inferiors) have been since; but your Lordship will reflect that I am no Man of Quality, either to *buy* or *sell* scribbling so high: and that I have neither *Place, Pension, nor Power* to reward for *secret Services*. It cannot be, that one of your Rank can have the least *Envy* to such an Author as I: but were that *possible*, it were much better gratify'd by employing *not your own*, but some of *those low and ignoble Pens* to do you this *mean Office*. I dare engage you'll have them for less than I gave Mr. *Broom*, if your Friends have not raised the Market: Let them drive the Bargain for you, my Lord; and you may depend on seeing, every Day in the Week, as many (and now and then as pretty) Verses, as these of your Lordship.

And would not it be full as well, that my poor Person should be abus'd by them, as by one of your Rank and Quality? Cannot *Curl* do the same? nay has he not done it before your Lordship, in the same *Kind of Language*, and almost the *same Words*? I cannot but think the worthy and *discreet Clergyman* himself will agree, it is *improper, nay unchristian*, to expose the *personal* Defects of our Brother: that both such perfect Forms as yours, and such unfortunate ones as mine, proceed from the Hand of the same *Maker*; who *fashioneth his Vessels* as he pleaseth, and that it is not from their *Shape* we can tell whether they are made for *Honour or Dishonour*. In a Word,

he

he would teach you Charity to your greatest Enemies, of which Number, my Lord, I cannot be reckoned, since, tho' a Poet, I was never your Flatterer.

Next, my Lord, as to the *Obscurity of y my Birth* (a Reflection copied also from Mr. *Curl* and his Brethren) I am sorry to be obliged to such a Presumption as to name my *Family* in the same Leaf with your Lordship's: but my Father had the Honour in one Instance to resemble you, for he was a *younger Brother*. He did not indeed think it a Happiness to bury his *elder Brother*, tho' he had one who wanted some of those good Qualities which *yours* possess. How sincerely glad could I be, to pay to that young Nobleman's Memory the Debt I ow'd to his Friendship, whose early Death deprived your Family of as much *Wit* and *Honour* as he has left behind him in any Branch of it. But as to my Father, I could assure you, my Lord, that he was no Mechanic (neither a *Hatter*, nor, which might please your Lordship yet better, a *Cobler*) but in Truth, of a very tolerable Family: And my Mother of an ancient one, as well born and educated as that *Lady*, whom your Lordship made Choice of to be the *Mother of your own Children*; whose Merit, Beauty, and Vivacity (if transmitted to your Posterity) will be a *better Present* than even the noble Blood they derive *only* from *you*. A Mother, on whom I was never obliged so far to reflect, as to say, she *spoiled me*². And a Father, who never found himself obliged to say of me that he *disapproved my Conduct*. In a Word, my Lord, I think it enough that my Parents, such as they were, never cost me a *Blush*; and that their Son, such as he is, never cost them a *Tear*.

I have purposely omitted to consider your Lordship's Criticisms on my *Poetry*. As they are exactly the same with those of the *forementioned Authors*, I apprehend

¹ *Hard as thy Heart, and as thy Birth obscure.*

² *A noble Father's Heir spoil'd by his Mother.*

His Lordship's Account of himself, p. 7.

apprehend they would justly charge me with Partiality, if I gave to *you* what belongs to *them*; or paid more Distinction to the *same Things* when they are in your Mouth, than when they were in theirs. It will be shewing both them and you (my Lord) a *more particular Respect*, to observe how much they are honoured by *your Imitation of them*, which indeed is carried through your whole Epistle. I have read somewhere at *School* (tho' I make it no *Vanity* to have forgot where) that *Tully* naturalized a few Phrases at the Instance of some of his Friends. Your Lordship has done more in Honour of those Gentlemen; you have authorized not only their *Affertions*, but their *Style*. For Example, *A Flow that wants Skill to restrain its Ardour*,—a *Dictionary that gives us nothing at its own Expence*—*As luxuriant Branches bear but little Fruit*, so *Wit unprun'd is but raw Fruit*—*While you rehearse Ignorance, you still know enough to do it in Verse*—*Wits are but glittering Ignorance*.—The *Account of how we pass our Time*—and, *The Weight on Sir R. W.—'s Brain*, *You can ever receive from no Head more than such a Head* (as no Head) *has to give*: Your Lordship would have said, *never receive instead of ever*, and *any Head instead of no Head*: but all this is perfectly new, and has greatly enriched our Language.

You are merry, my Lord, when you say, *Latin and Greek*

*Have quite deserted your poor John Trot-head.
And left plain native English in their Stead.*

for (to do you Justice) this is nothing less than *plain English*. And as for your *John Trot-head*, I can't conceive why you should give it that Name; for by some a Papers I have seen signed with that Name, it

is

^a See some *Treatises* printed in the *Appendix to the Craftsman* about that Time.

is certainly a Head *very* different from your Lordship's,

Your Lordship seems determined to fall out with every Thing you have learned at School : you complain next of a *dull Dictionary*

*That gives us nothing at its own Expence,
But a few modern Words for ancient Sense.*

Your Lordship is the first Man that ever carried the Love of Wit so far, as to expect a *witty Dictionary*. A Dictionary that gives us *any Thing but Words*, must not only be an *expensive* but a very *extravagant Dictionary*^b. But what does your Lordship mean by its giving us but *a few modern Words for ancient Sense*? If by *Sense* (as I suspect) you mean *Words* (a *Mistake not unusual*) I must do the Dictionary the Justice to say, that it gives us *just as many modern Words as ancient ones*. Indeed, my Lord, you have more Need to complain of a bad Grammar, than of a dull Dictionary.

Doctor Freind, I dare answer for him, never taught you to talk

of Sapphic, Lyric, and Iambic Odes.

Your Lordship might as well bid your present Tutor, your Taylor, make you a *Coat, Suit of Cloaths*, and *Breeches*: for you must have forgot your Logic, as well as Grammar, not to know, that Sapphic and Iambic are both included in Lyric; that being the *Genus*, and those the *Species*.

*For all cannot invent who can translate,
No more than those who cloath us, can create.*

Here

^b Yet we have seen many of these extravagant Dictionaries and are likely to see many more, in an Age so abounding in Science, that the ordinary Vehicles of it being insufficient to distribute it Abroad, Recourse is had to this extraordinary Method of Conveyance.

Here your Lordship seems in Labour for a Meaning. Is it that you would have Translations, *Originals*? for 'tis the common Opinion, that the *Business* of a Translator is to *translate*, and not to *invent*, and that of a Taylor to *cloath*, and not to *create*. But why should you, my Lord, of all Mankind, abuse a Taylor? not to say *blaspheme* him; if he can (as some think) at least go Halves with God Almighty in the Formation of a *Beau*. Might not Dr. *Sherwin* rebuke you for this, and bid you *Remember your Creator in the Days of your Youth*?

From a *Taylor*, your Lordship proceeds (by a beautiful Gradation to a *Silkman*.

Thus P—pe we find,
The gaudy Hinchcliff of a *beauteous Mind*.

Here too is some Ambiguity. Does your Lordship use *Hinchcliff* as a *proper Name*? or as the Ladies say a *Hinchcliff* or a *Colmar*, for a *Silk* or a *Fan*? I will venture to affirm, no Critic can have a perfect Taste of your Lordship's Works, who does not understand both your *Male Phrase* and your *Female Phrase*.

Your Lordship, to finish your Climax, advances up to a *Hatter*; a Mechanic, whose Employment, you inform us, is not (as was generally imagined) to *cover People's Heads*, but to *dress their Brains* c. A most useful Mechanic indeed! I can't help wishing to have been one, for some People's Sake.—But this too may be only another *Lady-Phrase*: Your Lordship and the Ladies may take a *Head-dress* for a *Head*, and understand, that to *adorn the Head* is the same Thing as to *dress the Brains*.

Upon the whole, I may thank your Lordship for this high Panegyric: For if I have but *dress'd* up *Homer*, as your *Taylor*, *Silkman*, and *Hatter* have *equipp'd* your *Lordship*, I must be owned to have *dress'd* him

c For this Mechanic's, like the Hatter's Pains,
Are but for dressing other People's Brains.

him *marvellously* indeed, and no Wonder if he is *admired by the Ladies* ^d.

After all, my Lord, I really wish you would learn your *Grammar*. What if you put yourself awhile under the Tuition of your Friend *W—m*? May not I with all Respect say to you, what was said to another *Noble Poet* by Mr. Cowley, Pray, Mr. Howard ^e, if you did read your *Grammar*, what Harm would it do you? You yourself wish all Lords would learn to write ^f; tho' I don't see of what Use it could be, if their whole Business is to give their Votes: ^g It could only be serviceable in signing their *Protests*. Yet surely this small Portion of Learning might be indulged to your Lordship, without any Breach of that *Privilege* ^h you so generously assert to all those of your Rank, or too great an Infringement of that *Right* ⁱ which you claim as *Hereditary*, and for which, no doubt, your Noble Father will thank you. Surely, my Lord, no Man was ever so bent upon depreciating himself!

All your Readers have observ'd the following Lines:

*How oft we hear some Witling pert and dull,
By Fashion Coxcomb, and by Nature Fool,
With hackney Maxims, in dogmatic Strain,
Scoffing Religion and the Marriage Chain?
Then from his Common-place-Book he repeats,
The Lawyers all are Rogues, and Parsons Cheats,
That Vice and Virtue's but a Jest,
And all Morality Deceit well-drest,
That Life itself is like a wrangling Game, &c.*

The

^d by Girls admir'd. p. 6

^e The Honourable Mr. Edward Howard, celebrated for his Poetry.

^f And when you see me fairly write my Name,
For England's Sake wish all Lords did the same.

^g — All our Business is to dress and vote, p. 4.

^h The Want of Brains, Ibid. ⁱ To be Fools, Ibid.

The whole Town and Court, (my good Lord) have heard *this Witling*; who is so much every Body's Acquaintance but his own, that I'll engage *they all name the same Person*. But to hear you say, that this is only—*of whipt Cream a frothy Store*, is a sufficient Proof, that never Mortal was endued with so humble an Opinion both of himself and his own Wit, as your Lordship: For, I do assure you, these are by much the best Verses in your whole Poem.

How unhappy is it for me, that a Person of your Lordship's *Modesty* and *Virtue*, who manifests so tender a Regard to *Religion, Matrimony, and Morality*; who, tho' an Ornament to the Court, cultivate an exemplary Correspondence with the *Clergy*; nay, who disdain not charitably to converse with, and even assist, some of the very worst of Writers (so far as to cast a few *Conceits*, or drop a few *Antitheses*, even among the *Dear Joys* of the *Courant*); that you, I say, should look upon me alone as reprobate and unamendable! Reflect what *I was*, and what *I am*. I am even *Annihilated* by your Anger: For in these Verses you have robbed me of *all Power to think*^k, and, in your others, of the very *Name* of a *Man*! Nay, to shew that this is wholly your own doing, you have told us that before I wrote my *last Epistles* (that is, before I unluckily mentioned *Fanny* and *Adonis*, whom, I protest, I knew not to be your Lordship's Relations) *I might have lived and died in Glory*^l.

What would I not do to be well with your Lordship? Tho', you observe, I am a mere *Imitator* of *Homer, Horace, Boileau, Garth, &c.* (which I have the less Occasion to be ashamed of, since they were *Imitators of one another*) yet what if I should solemnly engage never to imitate *your* Lordship? May it not be one Step towards an Accomodation, that while you remark my *Ignorance in Greek*, you are so good as to say, you have *forgot your own*? What if I should

^k P—pe, *who ne'er could think*, p. 7.

^l *In Glory then he might have liv'd and dy'd*. Ibid.

should confess I translated from *D'Acier*? That surely could not but oblige your Lordship, who are known to prefer *French* to all the learned Languages. But allowing that in the Space of *twelve Years* Acquaintance with *Homer*, I might unhappily contract as much *Greek* as your Lordship did in *Two* at the University, why may not I forget it again as happily.

Till such a Reconciliation take Effect, I have but one Thing to entreat of your Lordship. It is, that you will not decide of my *Principles* on the same Grounds as you have done of my *Learning*: Nor give the same Account of my *Want of Grace*, after you have lost all Acquaintance with my *Person*, as you do of my *Want of Greek*, after you have confessedly lost all Acquaintance with the *Language*. You are too generous, my Lord, to follow the Gentlemen of the *Dunciad* quite so far, as to seek my utter *Perdition*; as *Nero* once did *Lucan's*, merely for presuming to be a *Poet*, while one of so much greater Quality was a *Writer*, I therefore make this humble Request to your Lordship, that the next Time you please to write of me, speak of me, or even whisper of me, you will recollect it is full *eight Years* since I had the Honour of any *Conversation* or *Correspondence* with your Lordship, except just half an Hour in a Lady's Lodgings at Court, and then I had the Happiness of her being present all the Time. It would therefore be difficult even for your Lordship's Penetration to tell, to what, or from what *Principles*, *Parties*, or *Sentiments*, Moral, Political, or Theological, I may have been converted, or perverted in all that Time. I beseech your Lordship to consider, the Injury a Man of your high Rank and Credit may do to a private Person, under Penal Laws and many other Disadvantages, not for Want of *Honesty* or *Conscience*, but

m " The Whisper, that, to Greatness still too near,
 " Perhaps yet vibrates on his Sov'reign's Ear.

Epist. to Dr. Arbuthnot.

but merely perhaps for having too *weak a Head*, or too *tender a Heart* ⁿ. It is by *these alone* I have hitherto liv'd excluded from all *Posts of Profit or Trust*: As I can interfere with the *Views of no Man*, do not deny me, my Lord, *all that is left*, a little *Praise*, or the common Encouragement due, if not to my *Genius*, at least to my *Industry*.

Above all, your Lordship will be careful not to wrong my *Moral Character* with THOSE ^o under whose *Protection* I live, and through whose *Lenity* alone I can live with Comfort. Your Lordship, I am confident, upon Consideration will think, you inadvertently went a little *too far* when you recommended to THEIR Perusal, and strengthened by the Weight of your Approbation, a *Libel*, mean in its Reflections upon my poor *Figure*, and scandalous in those on my *Honour and Integrity*: wherein I was represented as “an *Enemy to human Race*, a *Murderer of Reputations*, and a *Monster* marked by God like *Cain*, deserving to wander accurs'd through the World.”

A strange Picture of a Man who had the good Fortune to enjoy many Friends, who will be always remembered as the first Ornaments of their Age and Country; and no Enemies that ever contriv'd to be heard of, except Mr. *John Dennis*, and your Lordship: A Man, who never wrote a Line in which the *Religion* or *Government* of his Country, the *Royal Family*, or their *Ministry* were disrespectfully mentioned; the Animosity of any one Party gratify'd at the Expence of another; or any Censure past, but upon *known Vice*, *acknowledg'd Folly*, or *aggressing Impertinence*, It is with infinite Pleasure he finds, that *some Men*, who seem *asham'd* and *afraid of nothing else*, are so very sensible of *his Ridicule*: And 'tis for that very Reason he resolves (by the Grace of God) and your Lordship's good Leave)

That

ⁿ See Letters to Bishop Atterbury, Lett. iv.

• The K. and Q.

*That, while he breathes, no rich or noble Knave
Shall walk the World in Credit to his Grave.*

This, he thinks, is rendering the best Service he can to the Public, and even to the good Government of his Country; and for this, at least, he may deserve some Countenance, even from the GREATEST PERSONS in it. Your Lordship knows of WHOM I speak. Their NAMES I should be as sorry, and as much ashamed to place near *yours*, on such an Occasion, as I should be to see *You*, my Lord, placed so near *their* PERSONS, if you could ever make so ill an Use of their Ear as to asperse or misrepresent any innocent Man.

This is all I shall ever ask of your Lordship, except your Pardon for this tedious Letter. I have the Honour to be, with equal *Respect* and *Concern*,

My Lord,

Your truly devoted Servant,

A. POPE.

p "Close at the Ear of Eve." Ep. to Dr. Arbuth.

10 JA 67

END of the EIGHTH VOLUME.

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